

U. S. Department of Justice

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FEDERAL BUREAU

of

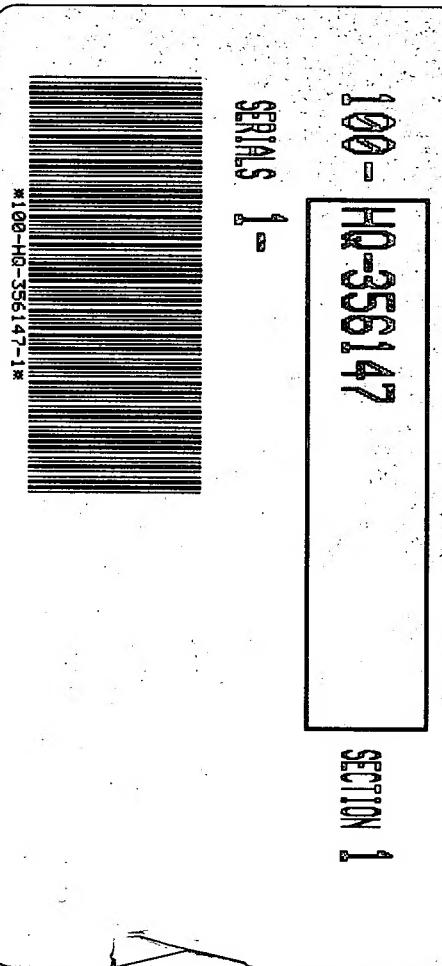
INVESTIGATION

Declassified
Declassification
Authority derived from
FBI Automatic
Declassification Guide,
issued May 24, 2007.

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Date: 11-22-2017
FOIA #48073
DOCID: 32976655

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Transfer-Call 421



RECORDED - 28
INDEXED - 28

100-38767-1 May 21, 1948

EX-20

Mr. H. V. Mouradian
40 Greenridge Avenue
White Plains, New York

Dear Mr. Mouradian:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 1, 1948, with enclosure, and I want to thank you for your courtesy in making the information contained therein available to me.

Should any additional information come to your attention which you feel may be of interest to this Bureau, may I suggest that you might find it more convenient to communicate with the Special Agent in Charge of our New York Office located at 607 U. S. Court House, Foley Square, New York 7, New York.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Khartoum, Sudan,

CC - New York (with enclosure for information)

Bureau files reflect that Mr. Mouradian was employed as part time translator, Armenian language, from November 1944 to January 1945. His services were apparently satisfactory. 67-398220

Bureau files also reflect information indicating that Rev. Antranig A. Bedikian was a representative of Sudan Khartoum at the World Armenian Congress held in New York City, April, 1947. 100-15648-107 page 4.

The files further reflect that Rev. Bedikian was the Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church, New York, in September, 1945.
100-38767-4 FILED

MAY 21 1948 P.M.
LEB:11

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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S. Gandy

JULY

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PL JG

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau Of Information,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

The inclosed is a translation of parts of an article that recently appeared in "Hayasdani Gotchnag", an Armenian weekly, New York.

This is not the first article he has written on the subject. Ever since U. S. relations with Soviet Russia became strained, he has been writing panegyrics on Communism and its noble mission for human society. Not content with these eulogies, he makes incidious attacks on U. S. government.

One incentive for such plaudits for Communism may be the current "Repatriation" Movement sponsored by the A.G.B.U. (Armenian General Benevolent Union) in which he plays an important role.

It would not be revealing a secret to say that ever since Russia opened the door of Soviet Armenia for displaced Armenians in the Middle East, pro-communist sentiment has been on the increase. Evidently Rev. Bedikian, as one of the leaders of the movement, feels it to be his duty to encourage the movement by an exaggerated picture of the purpose of Communism. Thus patriotism may perhaps account for such exaltation of a system which has become detestable to right thinking people throughout the world, but it by no means justifies unfair criticism of one's adopted country.

The writer is an Armenian, a naturalized citizen of U. S. for about 25 years. During the last World War I worked as examiner in the Postal Censorship Dept. in New York for about four years. It was during that time I met one of your field men, Mr. Jennings, who asked me to translate relevant articles from Lrapaer, an Armenian daily with decided pro-communistic leanings. Last year I sent to him at New York office parts of an article by Rev. Bedikian published in Gotchnag the previous year asking for his opinion and whether it would be worth while to translate other propaganda material from Mr. Bedikian. But I understood Mr. Jennings was no longer located in New York, and the man who answered for him did not seem to take much interest. Since then Mr. Bedikian has kept making rabid attacks on U. S. that I feel it to be my duty as a loyal citizen to send this to you as head of F. B. I. If you come to see some of his most point-

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ed statements in his previous articles, I shall gladly furnish them. To give an idea, I shall quote a few samples from his article "The Man And The Idea".

"The movement (communism) is very serious and worthy of our respect. It is advancing with the momentum of a gigantic, irresistible torrent with the indomitable will to remodel the life of not one nation only, but of the entire mankind"

"Before the atomic bomb exploded anywhere in the world, it exploded in the soul of Russia and from under the debris of apparent ruins it created a new order in which we believe is the promise of world peace. To morrow we shall be in it, though today we are mere spectators". (the underlining is my own)

Mr. Bedikian has been pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church in New York for about 30 years. He is a man of influence and prestige in the Armenian community in the United States, and it is natural that his writings and speeches should greatly influence the political sentiments of his people.

I regret that my letter had to be rather too long and I hope you will excuse it.

Ever ready to be of service to my country, I am

Yours respectfully
H.V. Mouradian

P. S. The writer is a retired teacher having taught many years in American colleges in the Near East, among them the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. During the First World War he served as Intelligence officer in the British army covering Medforce (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force), Egyptian Expeditionary Force (Cairo, Jerusalem), and the Black Sea Force (Constantinople).

40 Greenridge Avenue
White Plains, N. Y.
May 1, 1948

W A R

By

Rev. A. A. Bedikian

(Published in Hayasdan Gotchnag, New York,
Apr. 17, 1948)

At no time in contemporary history, and in no other country (including the erstwhile Nazi Germany) has been set a more gigantic, more sinister, more unscrupulous propaganda machine to serve its satanic purposes than the one which at present is being used in this country to create suspicion, fear, and hatred. Americans are a peace-loving people and for that very reason are easily influenced by any suggestion that selfish and unscrupulous politicians can make to stir them against phantoms supposed to be threatening their peace.

Desire for world domination, money, and superior force, insatiable appetite for trade; these are the dominant motives that lead to war.

There is no reasonable cause for war, but there is danger at present if the people will not reject this poison artificially injected into their veins.

But why all this propaganda?

First, because Europe is bankrupt and the United States is the only treasury and guardian of the wealth of the world. Every interest is centered here. Here are the keys. To preserve the economic lordship of a few thousand persons, they will not feel any remorse to set the world on fire forty times if need be. Wealth concentrated here must be preserved at all cost. Since material wealth has no other bulwark in the world, if it is lost here, it will be lost everywhere. So what? if the youths of two generations perish so long as that wealth and the corner stone of Adam Smith's economic theory remain intact.

So wealth is one motive and source of this propaganda.

The second is the Roman Catholic Church. This church is founded on authoritarianism; in other words it is the continuation of the Holy Roman Empire under the cloak of religion. When the Pope claims to be God's representative on earth, he also seeks to rule over men's body and soul. The Catholics dread eternal punishment, and the church exploits this fear to keep every subject to its domination. The Pope holds

the keys of heaven and hell. Through such controlling power he can and does meddle with every detail of the people's life. Hence every menace against this hierarchy is a menace to the very existence of the church, a menace against which he wages open war armed to the teeth.

Wealth and the Roman Catholic church have today allied themselves against a common danger. Thus propaganda blows into our ears through these two horns.

A third source of propaganda is domestic policy. In this country people will sacrifice both soul and principle for getting votes. There is a cold war of election going on. The present government wishes to keep its position and authority, and thousands and tens of thousands whose jobs and offices depend on the continuance of this government will use every means to create a mental attitude favoring their re-election. If by being forced into war they think they can achieve their end, they will fill the minds of the people with the fear and inevitableness of war. If they coerce war, there will be no war. And if the people will open their eyes and see the realities, there will be no war.

But there are two despairing conditions. First, the American people have not the will to wake up. They want to live for today, to eat, drink and sink in pleasure. They are so enraptured by material gain and pleasure that they do not want to think. Passivity is the characteristic of the American people. Hence they become easy prey to propaganda. Second, Americans are gullible because they neither think nor have the will to be interested in realities. They read what is written, listen to what is said, that's all. Those who think do not constitute a power, neither do the masses; it is the minority that drives the propaganda campaign. Who said that there is complete freedom in this country? Yes, there was once, but there is none today. Means for expressing opposite ideas are shut now, or are subject to persecution.

We are waging a frantic battle against a nation whose social and political philosophy seems irreconcilable with our own. The Constitution of this country is an ideal model for planning and guaranteeing the nation's welfare. But when that model is marred in the hands of politicians, what is the result?.....

Communism is alien to the mentality, tradition or theory of life of the American people, but it is not a danger per se. But when democracy becomes perverted to dictatorship, and the breach between conflicting ideologies is widened and the battle between the two becomes more and more violent, then danger is sure to come.

If we are protected from within, there will be no cause for fear from without. We have fixed our attention to outside, whereas we should concentrate it to within."

~~August 28, 1951~~

~~MEMORANDUM~~

RE: ~~ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION OF AMERICA, INC.~~

No investigation has been conducted by the FBI relative to the ~~Armenian General Benevolent Union of America, Inc., 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City.~~

For your information, however, the files of this Bureau revealed that the Armenian General Benevolent Union was allegedly organized for the purpose of collecting charitable donations for help and aid to poor, to orphans and generally to destitute Armenians all over the world. It has been reported that the Benevolent Union exists only in the United States and has no international affiliation. (100-196469-7)

For your further information, in February, 1943, a confidential source of known reliability advised that Levon N. Zenian, at that time Executive Director of the Armenian General Benevolent Union had, in December, 1942 contacted Maxim Litvinoff, Russian ambassador to the United States and advised the latter that the Armenian General Benevolent Union wished to express the deep gratitude and admiration which the Armenian people everywhere cherished toward the Russian people and the "invincible" Red Army.

In November, 1943, a confidential source of known reliability advised

FOIA(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024(i)(1) - Intelligence Sources and Methods

(65-57766-166)

The foregoing information is furnished for your confidential use only and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency. This is the result of a request for an FBI file check only and is not to be considered as a clearance or nonclearance of the individual involved.

Original to OSD

D. J. Sullivan: lhl

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EX-67

AUG 30 1951

X-38
52 SEP 14 1951

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 12/9/52

FROM : SAC, New York (100-46846)

SUBJECT: ~~Armenian General Benevolent Union~~
Armenian Intelligence Activities
IS-R and AR

Mrs. BEATRICE ~~WALTMAYER~~ ~~RODNEY~~ KELEKIAN, a native born citizen who resides at 19 East 80 Street, NYC, advised the NYO on 11/17/52 and again on November 18 and 20, 1952, that she considered the Armenian General Benevolent Union to be a fraud and engaged in subversive activities. Mrs. KELEKIAN advised that her husband ~~CHARLES DIKRAN~~ KELEKIAN was born in France but was a naturalized citizen and added that she had one child, a daughter, ~~NANNETTE BARBARA~~ KELEKIAN, by a former husband ARNOLD RODNEY. Mrs. KELEKIAN said that her present husband, whom she married in 1946 was not a member of any of the Armenian Political Parties but was an "Independent". *MS. JMS*

Mrs. KELEKIAN said that her husband was the surviving heir of a wealthy art dealer DIKRAN KELEKIAN, who committed suicide in NYC in 1950. DIKRAN KELEKIAN was an Armenian patriot who was aged and feeble. While Mrs. KELEKIAN and her husband were in Europe in 1950, members of the AGBU influenced DIKRAN KELEKIAN to leave his entire fortune to the AGBU to be used for patriotic Armenian reasons. Shortly after signing a new will DIKRAN KELEKIAN jumped to his death from a hotel window.

Mrs. KELEKIAN advised that a scandal existed among the Armenian Colony in that numerous older wealthy Armenians had been influenced by AGBU to change their wills, leaving the money to the AGBU and cutting off surviving children almost penniless. As an example of the above, Mrs. KELEKIAN cited the MELKONIAN Will Case in 1925 in which an Egyptian tobacco "king" left his money to the AGBU, cutting off relatives who later managed to "break the will" and secure the inheritance. Another example was the case of WILHELMINA SOUREN, widow of a wealthy stamp dealer of NYC, who was left penniless by her husband with the AGBU receiving most of his money.

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Letter to Director
NY 100-46846

Mrs. KELEKIAN said that the AGBU was founded in about 1906 by Armenians, away from Armenia, for the purpose of aiding orphans of the Turkish Massacres. The AGBU later branched out and began assisting Armenians in Syria, Lebanon and other countries in Asia Minor building schools and orphanages. Mrs. KELEKIAN said that the MELKONIAN settlement gave the AGBU one million dollars to build schools in Armenia (now Soviet Armenia). Mrs. KELEKIAN said that at one time branches of the AGBU had money in all the major banks of Europe, chiefly the Banque Vaudoise in Luzerne, Switzerland. All this money was "smuggled" into the US and at the present time there is approximately 8 million dollars in their account. Mrs. KELEKIAN said she learned of this money from JOSEPH P. KUTCHUKIAN, 10 Park Terrace, East, NYC, who was formerly a bookkeeper for the AGBU.

Mrs. KELEKIAN said that the AGBU was engaged in Espionage and gave evidence of this, the fact that they were collecting money for schools and supporting orphanages in Soviet Armenia and to do this they necessarily had to transmit funds to Soviet Armenia with no positive knowledge of the ultimate use of the funds. Mrs. KELEKIAN furnished a program for the "40th Anniversary Gala Celebration 1906-1946" of the AGBU held at the City Center 5/18/46.

During 1946, a collection was taken up among Armenians to assist those Americans wishing to be repatriated to Armenia. In the program booklet of the AGBU on this occasion are numerous "ads" which offer congratulations to those returning and expressing confidence that one million dollars could be raised to assist the repatriates. This booklet is being retained as an exhibit. Mrs. KELEKIAN said that the AGBU assisted in the collection of funds for repatriation, a disloyal act, and received money at its headquarters, 295 Fifth Avenue, NY 16, NY.

Mrs. KELEKIAN said that HAIKY KAVOOKJIAN and JAMES CHANKALIAN went to Soviet Armenia officially as members of the AGBU in 1945 and returned in 1946.

Mrs. KELEKIAN advised that the following persons were members of the AGBU and were probably not loyal American citizens:

Letter to Director
NY 100-46846

✓ ARSHAG KARAGHEUSIAN, President of the AGBU, and CHARLES KARAGHEUSIAN, his son, both of whom reside at 145 Central Park West, NYC, and who owns the A. and M. Karagheusian Rug Company at 295 Fifth Avenue, NYC.

✓ HAIK KAVOOKJIAN and his son HOWARD, who reside at the Hotel Novarro, NYC, and at an estate in Darien, Connecticut, both of whom are active in the AGBU.

✓ RICHARD K. GREGORY who is President of the American branch of the AGBU and who resides at 6804 Burns Street, Forest Hills, NY.

GALLABET GULBENKIAN who owns the Gulbenkian Seamless Rug Company of New Brunswick, New Jersey, and who is active in the AGBU and who resides at 50 Prospect Avenue, Larchmont, NY.

✓ VAHAN KURKJIAN who is active in the AGBU and employed at their office 295 Fifth Avenue, NYC, and who resides at 320 Wadsworth Avenue, NYC.

Mrs. M. HOVSEPIAN who travels widely in Europe and the Middle East and who could be an Espionage subject although ostensibly traveling under the AGBU auspices.

✓ Miss VAVA KATCHADOORIAN who is very friendly with the Russian Consul in NYC and Washington and who travels widely in Europe and the Near East as an artist, although a very poor painter. KATCHADOORIAN, according to Mrs. KELEKIAN, says she is poor but she spends a good deal of money. KATCHADOORIAN resides in NYC at 48 West 56 Street or 152 West 57th Street and in Paris at 39 Rue Du 22 Septembre or at 33 Rue Bayen in care of Sarian.

Mrs. KELEKIAN advised that she had furnished the above information to the New York State Crime Commission but due to the wealth of members of the AGBU, notably the GULEENKIAN and KARAGHEUSIAN families, nothing was done. Mrs. KELEKIAN advised that she planned to present the above information to a US Senate Committee in Washington, D. C., which committee was set up to investigate the tax exempt status of charitable organizations and the use they make of the funds entrusted to them.

Mrs. KELEKIAN was advised of the responsibilities of the FBI in espionage cases.

Letter to Director
NY 100-46846

A search of the indices of the NYO failed to reveal any evidence of subversive activity on the part of the AGBU or persons mentioned by Mrs. KELEKIAN with the exception of VAVA KATCHADOORIAN

[redacted] FOIA b (3) - 50 USC 3024 (i) 1 - Intelligence Sources and Methods

Armenian informants of the NYO were contacted and all advised that the AGBU was regarded by all Armenians as being a legitimate charitable organization. All said that even the Dashnug organization which operates in opposition to its respects the legitimate role of the AGBU as a charitable organization and said that there was no known scandal concerning the AGBU.

SAC, New York (100-46846)

May 27, 1953

Director, FBI (100-356147) 4

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Reurlet 5-7-53. You are authorized to contact Mrs. Dickran M. Sarkisian and advise her that a careful check of this Bureau's files has disclosed that the report which she mentioned on 4-29-53, could not have been a report of this Bureau. You should not in any way reveal whether or not this Bureau has any information on either Mrs. Sarkisian or the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), and you should point out that there are a number of U.S. intelligence and investigative agencies, and often the FBI is confused with the other intelligence or investigative agencies.

You should make every effort to elicit from Mrs. Sarkisian the identity of the friend who informed her that he/or she had been shown a FBI report by a highly placed official of a Military Intelligence agency. If you succeed in securing the name of the individual, you should interview the individual at once for full details in this matter.

It would appear from your letter that the information was obtained by Mrs. Sarkisian's friend from an individual who had access to ONI records in New York City. It is also noted that OSI records reflect that in 1949, a Major Dickran M. Sarkisian indicated that his brother-in-law was Commander Dale Peterson, no specific service specified, and that his sister was Virginia Peterson, address, U.S. Naval Air Station, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

During your contact with Mrs. Sarkisian, you should discreetly determine if her son is or was in the U.S. Air Force, particularly whether he is or was assigned to OSI. You should also attempt to determine through a credit check prior to the interview with Mrs. Sarkisian, whether Virginia Peterson and Commander Dale Peterson are her daughter and son-in-law. If it cannot be determined from a credit check it is suggested you determine from Mrs. Sarkisian whether she has other close relatives connected with the armed services, and their identity. If Commander Peterson is Mrs.

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CVB:let

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COMM-FBI (See note page 2)

MAY 28 1953

MAILED 25

FOIA(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024(i)(1) - Intelligence Sources and Methods

Sarkisian's son-in-law, you should determine from ONI in New York City, whether he is connected with ONI or ever had access to ONI files

You should handle this matter immediately and advise the Bureau of the results of the investigation, as the Bureau intends to inform ONI in the event investigation indicates that the information came from ONI files.

NOTE:

Mrs. Dickran M. Sarkisian advised New York office on 4-29-53, that she wanted to correct some misinformation which the FBI had in its files regarding the AGBU, her husband and herself. She advised that she had been informed by a friend that a highly placed official of one of the Military Intelligence agencies had exhibited a FBI report to her friend, which report indicated the AGBU was a Communist controlled organization. The report also reflected she was vice president of the organization which in fact she admitted being, during World War II. The report according to her also reflected that her husband had bequested a large sum of money to the organization which she denied.

New York could not locate such a report. The records of G-2 Governor's Island, New York City were checked and no records were located re Mrs. Sarkisian. OSI records in New York City listed Mrs. Sarkisian as a vice president of the AGBU, but no other pertinent reference was located and no FBI report re Mrs. Sarkisian was located in the records of OSI.

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(note continued on page 3)

(note continued from page 2)

ONI files contain no FBI report concerning Mrs. Sarkisian.

New York has furnished the pertinent points of Mrs. Sarkisian's complaint to Division Intelligence Officer Third Naval District, New York City, and mentioned the FBI report containing information as furnished by Mrs. Sarkisian could not be located in the New York office files.

Bureau files checked and the FBI report mentioned by Mrs. Sarkisian was not located.

FOIA(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024(i)(1) - Intelligence Sources and Methods

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

SH
TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, New York (100-46846)
SUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
IS-R

DATE: 5/7/53

oo 1-1

On 4/29/53, Mrs. DICKRAN M. SARKISIAN, 200 E. 66th Street, New York City advised SA MALCOLM E. SAMPLE that she wished to correct some misinformation which the FBI had in its files in regard to the Armenian General Benevolent Union, her husband and herself. She refused to divulge the source of her information but stated that she had been told by a friend that a highly placed official of one of the military intelligence agencies had exhibited an FBI report containing the information to her friend. She mentioned that her son DICKRAN M. SARKISIAN, JR. had been a Colonel in World War II.

In regard to the alleged "misinformation" in the FBI files, Mrs. SARKISIAN stated that the report indicated that the Armenian General Benevolent Union was a Communist controlled organization and that her husband had bequeathed a large sum of money to the organization. She also stated that the report reflected that she was a Vice-President of the organization, but that this point was true since she had served as Vice-President of the organization during World War II.

During the interview, Mrs. SARKISIAN stated that the AGBU was not and had never been Communist dominated or controlled and that it had never followed the Communist Party line. She also stated that she was active in the AGBU and that it was a cultural and philanthropic organization engaged in helping needy Armenian people.

It is noted New York informants have previously advised that the AGBU was regarded by all Americans as being a legitimate charitable organization and that the case involving this organization is carried in a "Closed" status.

The New York files contain only one reference to Mrs. D. M. SARKISIAN. This reference lists her as a Vice-President of the AGBU in 1946.

The records of G-2, Governors Island, were checked on 5/1/53 but no record of Mrs. D. M. SARKISIAN could be located.

The records of OSI, New York City, were checked on 5/4/53. Mrs. D. M. SARKISIAN was listed as a Vice-President of the AGBU. There were no other pertinent references and no FBI report including the name of Mrs. D. M. SARKISIAN could be located.

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JHK:AO

Memorandum
5-26-53
CRB/LL

DET. H. POLICE
FBI - NEW YORK
RECORDED - 67

INDEXED - 67 100-356142-4
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100-356142-4

Letter to Director
NY 100-46846

FOIA b (3) - 50 USC 3024(i) 1 - Intelligence Sources and Methods

It is noted that the Armenian Progressive League of America has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

FOIA b (3) - 50 USC 3024(i) 1 - Intelligence Sources and Methods

The ONI files contain no FBI report concerning Mrs. D. M. SARKISIAN.

Letter to Director
NY 100-46846

During the course of the investigation it was noted that the files of the OSI New York reflect that a Major DICKRAN M. SARKISIAN in 1949 has indicated that his brother-in-law was Commander DALE PETERSON, no address or service specified and that his sister was VIRGINIA PETERSON whose address was U.S. Naval Air Station, Atlantic City at the time. No attempt was made to positively identify Mrs. SARKISIAN as the mother of Major SARKISIAN.

In view of the fact that the information mentioned by Mrs. SARKISIAN did not come from an FBI report it is recommended that Mrs. SARKISIAN be recontacted and advised that a diligent search reflect that the FBI made no such report as she has referred to or described.

The pertinent points of Mrs. SARKISIAN'S complaint are being furnished to the District Intelligence Officer, 3rd Naval District, 90 Church Street, New York City.

A statement that a search of the New York Office files failed to reflect that the report referred to by Mrs. SARKISIAN was furnished by this office has been included.

FOIA b(3) - 50 USC 3024(i) 1 - Intelligence Sources and Methods

SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor B. Soder

Room 1521

Subj: Mrs. Dickson M. Laskisian

Exact Spelling Searchers R.H.
 All References Initial R.H.
 Subversive Ref. Date 5-14-53
 Main File
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| FILE NUMBER | SERIALS |
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| | N.R. |
| Mrs. Dickson (D) | |
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| Mrs. Dickson (cont) | |
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| Mrs. D. M. (D) | |
| 65-56402-1550 p#28 | |
| Mrs. D. (D) | |
| | N.R. |

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SERVICE UNIT
SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor Broden Room 1521

Subj: Dickson M. Larkissian

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FILE NUMBER

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SAC, New York (100-46846)

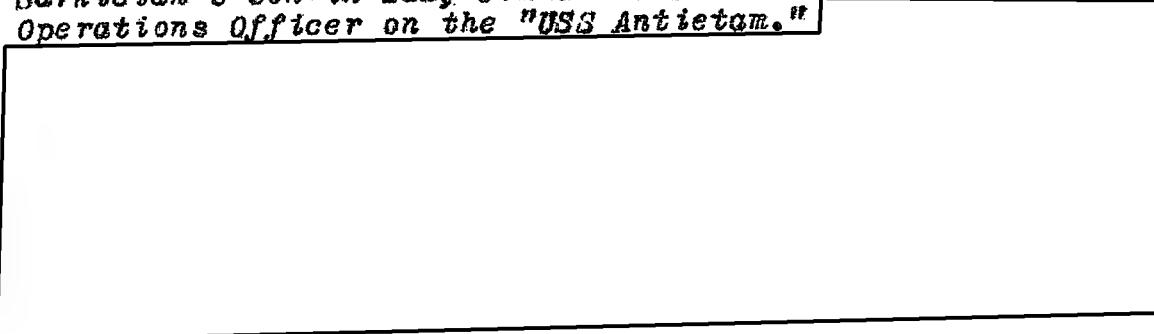
July 29, 1953

RECORDED - 46 Director, FBI (100-356147) - 3

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
INTERNAL SECURITY - R & AR

Reurlets 5-7-53 and 7-6-53.

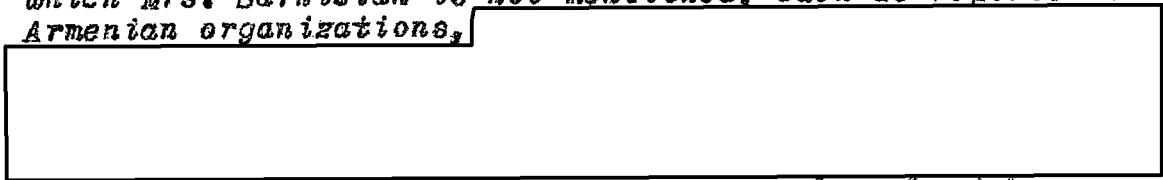
It is noted from urlet of 7-6-53 that Mrs. Sarkisian's son-in-law, Commander Dale Peterson, is the Operations Officer on the "USS Antietam."



The Bureau desires to bring this matter to the attention of ONI as it would appear that the information related by Mrs. Sarkisian to SA Malcolm E. Sample on 4-29-53

If Commander Peterson is Mrs. Sarkisian's son-in-law, it was undoubtedly he or his wife that furnished Mrs. Sarkisian the information concerning her and her husband. This is the information which she states is false. It would also appear that there has been a disclosure of classified information to a person unauthorized to receive it.

Before the Bureau furnishes the information to ONI, the Bureau desires to be sure that the information which Mrs. Sarkisian claims is false did or did not appear in a Bureau report. It is possible that information could have appeared piecemeal in various reports in which Mrs. Sarkisian is not mentioned, such as reports on Armenian organizations.



CVB:rmc [initials] [signature] SEE NOTE ON PAGE 2.

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Holloman _____
Sizoo _____
Miss Gandy _____

3 19 W J
REC'D BY [signature]

FOIA b 3 - 50 USC 3024 i 1 - Intelligence Sources and Methods

It is requested that you furnish this information in letter form within ten days of the receipt of this letter in your office.

NOTE: Mrs. Sarkisian, on 4-29-53, advised the NYO she wanted to correct some misinformation which the FBI had in its files regarding instant organization, her husband and herself. She advised she had been informed by a friend that a highly placed official of one of the military intelligence agencies had exhibited an FBI report to her friend, which report indicated that the AGBU was a Communist-controlled organization, that she was Vice-President of the organization and that her husband had bequeathed a large sum of money to the organization. She admitted being Vice-President of the organization during World War II but denied that her husband had bequeathed money to the organization. New York could not locate such a report nor could such a report be located at the Bureau. New York checked the records of G-2, OSI and ONI and located no such report

FOIA b 3 - 50 USC 3024 i 1 - Intelligence Sources and Methods

At the Bureau's instructions, Mrs. Sarkisian was recontacted and informed that the report she referred to could not have been an FBI report and was questioned for the identity of her source, which she refused to disclose.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*JVB
PM*

TO : Director, FBI (100-356147)

FROM : SAC, New York (100-46846)

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
IS - R

DATE: 7/6/53

Rebulet 5/27/53 directing that Mrs. D. M. SARKISIAN be re-contacted.

On 6/17/53 Mrs. DICKRAN M. SARKISIAN was recontacted by SA JAMES H. KAVANAGH, JR. at her home, 200 East 66 Street, NYC. Mrs. SARKISIAN stated that she could not reveal the source of her information because she said that she had been told that the person who had furnished the information "might get into trouble", that she had promised that she would not give out the source of her information and she would not break her promise.

During the course of the interview Mrs. SARKISIAN was advised that a thorough search of the Bureau's files had been made, that no report containing the information she had reported to have been in an FBI report had been found and that it was apparent that the "report" she had referred to was not an "FBI report".

Mrs. SARKISIAN was also advised of the number of other governmental agencies which conduct investigations and agreed that the "report" referred to could have been from some other agency.

During the discussion Mrs. SARKISIAN mentioned the following points.

1. The individual who is reported to have seen the "FBI report" saw it in the course of his duties, knew her friend, and knew that she was interested in the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

2. Commander DAIE PETERSON, USN, is her son-in-law. He is presently operations officer aboard the USS ANTIETAM.

3. DICKRAN M. SARKISIAN is her son. He was formerly a major in the U.S. Air Force and is now a Lieut. Col. in the USAF reserve.

4. She would not be concerned if the original source of her information were to be determined by investigation because since she did not reveal the source her conscience would be clear.

RECORDED-60

100-356147-5

INDEXED-60

JUL 8 1953

24

JHK:BA

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RAY DEC 4 1982

EX-125

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED

Letter to Director
NY 100-46846

5. She would not reveal the name of her friend because her friend could not furnish any additional information concerning the "report" and she did not wish to have the individual questioned about the source.

During the course of the interview Mrs. SARKISIAN advised that she was a loyal American, despised communism and had made her original visit to the New York Office mainly because of her children's reputation. Mrs. SARKISIAN asked if the Bureau had any information concerning the AGBU and was advised that SA KAVANAGH was not in a position to furnish any information. To this Mrs. SARKISIAN laughingly remarked that SA KAVANAGH wanted information from her but did not wish to give any information. However after a discussion of the confidential nature of the Bureau's files, Mrs. SARKISIAN stated that she understood the FBI policy.

As SA KAVANAGH was leaving Mrs. SARKISIAN stated that she would be happy of furnish information concerning the AGBU or other Armenian organizations with which she was familiar. She indicated that she has very little information concerning the Armenian Progressive League of America or the Armenian Youth of America but would contact SA KAVANAGH if she learned anything of value.

SA MICHAEL O'ROURKE has been advised through liaison channels that Commander DALE PETERSON has not been assigned to the Office of Naval Intelligence in New York City. The complete record of Commander PETERSON can be secured from the U.S. Navy Department in Washington, D.C.

SAC, New York (100-46846)

August 12, 1953

Director, FBI (100-356147) -6

RECORDED - 16

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
INTERNAL SECURITY - R & AR

ReNYmemo of 7-28-53.

The contents of refmemo and attached copy of unsigned letter dated 7-1-53, should have been submitted in blind memo suitable for dissemination as should have been contents New York memo of 12-9-52.

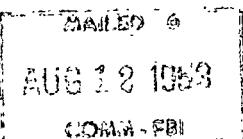
Submit immediately such a memo setting forth specific sources (confidential where necessary) and dates.

Furthermore, discreetly ascertain from Mrs. Kelekian if, as you believe, she is the author of the referenced unsigned letter.

It is noted that referenced copy of letter as received by Bureau contains no indication that copies thereof were sent by the writer to the Attorney General and to the Immigration and Naturalization Service as stated in memo of 7-28-53.

PJC:jdb

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Geary _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Sizoo _____
Miss Gandy _____



REC'D BY [unclear] 11:21 AM 8/13/53

FOIA(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024(i)(1) - Intelligence Sources and Methods

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-356147)

FROM : SAC, New York (100-46846)

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
INTERNAL SECURITY - R + AR

DATE: 7/28/53

Enclosed is a copy of an unsigned letter received at the New York Office which refers to a JEAN and HAGOP ANDONIAN and the above captioned organization. It is being forwarded because it indicated that copies of the letter have been furnished to the Attorney General and the Department of Immigration and Naturalization.

The files of the New York Office were checked concerning the principals mentioned in the letter. There was no information concerning JEAN ANDONIAN, ANGELE MINELLE, ALICE and SAM MELKON and GARBIS DILSIZIAN. References indicated that HAGOP ANDONIAN, 2 West 83 St. NYC, was listed as a member of the Propaganda Committee of the Armenian National Council in 1944. The ANC is reported to have been organized originally for the purpose of reclaiming territory from Turkey, but to be dominated by the American Progressive League of America at the present time. The APLA has been cited by the Attorney-General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450. Armenian

References further indicate that VAVA KATCHADOURIAN, aka MRS. SARKIS KATCHADOURIAN, is the wife of an artist-painter who had a studio at 152 West 57 St. NYC. N.Y.

Reference is made to New York letter dated 12/9/52, which reflects the result of an interview with MRS. BEATRICE KELEKIAN, 19 East 80 St. New York City. MRS. KELEKIAN at that time furnished information similar to that included in the enclosed letter. On 2/12/53 MRS. KELEKIAN was interviewed at her request by SA JAMES H. KAVANAGH, JR at which time she repeated the information furnished to the Bureau in referenced letter and indicated she would reorganize her information and would send a written outline to the NYO. It is believed that the enclosed letter was written by MRS. KELEKIAN and was inadvertently unsigned. RUC

RECORDED - 51 100-356147-6
INDEXED - 51 JUL 31 1953

Enc. (1)

JHK:MTD

let to SAC, NY
8-12-53
Pfc/jdw

FBI:SA 11 T 1953

Federal Bureau of Investigation
290 Broadway
New York City

July 1, 1953

Attention of Mr. Phillip K. Cavanaugh

Dear Sir:

REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF JEAN ANDONIAN, 83-09 Talbot St.,
Kew Gardens, N.Y., IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARMENIAN GENERAL
BENEVOLENT UNION of AMERICA, 295 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C.

~~CHARLES KARAGHEUSIAN~~ *N.Y.*

The Armenian General Benevolent Union has recently announced the retirement of Arshag Karagheusian from all activities in connection with this organization. Actually his son, Charles, has taken over under the direction of his father. Their home address is 145 Central Park West, business at 295 Fifth Avenue, same as the A.G.B.U. Karagheusian has, and still picks the contacts which get money and goods to Soviet Armenia, much more than they may be permitted to send with permission they claim they have from our State Department.

Specifically, one of the people currently engaged in such an activity is ~~Mrs. Hagon Andonian~~, also known as ~~Jean or Jeanne Andonian or Jeanne Philipous Andonian~~, whose pen name is Janine May and who resides at the address indicated above with her husband. Jean Andonian is a naturalized citizen of Armenian origin born in the Near East.

This individual left the United States approximately six or seven weeks ago. Her itinerary if carried out as planned includes Egypt, Turkey, France, Switzerland and if possible Lebanon and Austria. In most of these countries the A.G.B.U. operates. Her alleged reason for going is to give a series of lectures. She has already been to Istanbul and is now in Paris. In Paris she is staying with Mademoiselle Lydia Karine, 73 Faubourg Poissonniere. Lydia Karine is a Russian Armenian. Her father whose name is Eshkalakian is a communist and is active in the Paris branch of the A.G.B.U. which is located at the Square Albani in the 16 arrondissement. Lydia Karine *J.R.* came to the United States last year for the alleged reason of giving song recitals and one such was given in New York's Town Hall.

It is to be noted here that the agents and officers of this organization play on the "cultural angle."

JEAN ANDONIAN'S CONTACTS ABROAD ENGAGED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

J.R. ~~Angele Minelli~~, 46 Rue Poissonniere, Paris. Mrs. Minelli was ordered to leave this country about two years ago. Her address is close to that of Karine.

~~Vava Katchadourian~~, Russian born Armenian, family still in Russia.

160-356147-6

ENCLOSURE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Attention of Mr. Phillip K. Cavanaugh

One brother resides in Paris at 110 Rue Cardinet. This address was the residence and dressmaking establishment of his wife. Since actively engaged with his sister the dressmaking business has been given up. *Fr.* The brother's last name is ~~Sarian~~ and the wife's maiden name was ~~Bedrossian~~. Vava maintains two apartments in Paris, 36 Rue Beyen and 39 Rue du 22 Septembre, Becon les Bruyeres. This is considered a Paris Suburb but is reached by subway. In New York Mrs. Katchadourian maintains two apartments, 48 West 56 Street and 152 West 57 Street, Hagop Boyadjian lives in the 56 Street apartment. The painter, Sarian, the prominent painter in Soviet Russia is closely related to Vava Katchadourian. *Fr.* *N.Y.* *70*

Jean Andonian and Vava work in close unison abroad and here when Vava was in this country.

W.H. *BURMA* ~~Garbis Dilsizian~~, a former business associate of Hagop Andonian disappeared from this country hurriedly and mysteriously about six years ago. Hagop Andonian was closely associated with this man knowing fully his reputation. Their last offices were in the Empire State Building. It has been impossible for the writer to ascertain whether Jean Andonian has been instructed to meet with him. Dilsizian has relatives in this city and the last they would give out was that he was in Burma. Andonian would know where he is.

W.H. ~~Alice Melkon~~, a young woman born in Lebanon is a link here in New York. She is the wife of ~~Sam Melkon~~, 5640 Netherlands Avenue, Bronx, and travels to Lebanon and the Near East frequently, in the past year, at least twice. The step father of Sam Melkon is Haim Kavookjian, Hotel Navarro, 59 Street, *Russia*, Darien Conn., and Red Bank, N.J. Kavookjian is one of the most active members of the A.G.B.U. working closely with Karagheusian. He went to Russia in 1946 with the Capt. James Chankalian, father of Armand Chankalian, former assistant U.S. attorney for N.Y. and one of those questioned before the Crime Commission last winter. Kavookjian was the most active in raising money to repatriate American Armenians in 1946.

Jean Andonian and her husband are very closely tied with every name mentioned in this letter.

Andonian's earnings from his business, 309 Fifth Avenue, where he has desk room to conduct his so called export, import business are extremely meagre and his wife's alleged earnings from her writings, which are in French and have almost no sale whatsoever, and from lectures she occasionally gives in order to establish herself as a lecturer in anticipation of her work abroad, are negligible.

She is due back around September first and this trip of five months is being subsidized by the Armenians on whose subversive business she is travelling.

Respectfully

(2)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-356147)

FROM : SAC, New York (100-46846)

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
IS-R

DATE: 8/6/53

Re NYlet 7/6/53 reporting the results of the interview with Mrs. DICKRAN SARKISIAN.

In view of the fact that there is no further investigation to be conducted in this case it is being closed.

no file
Ser 8

RECORDED - 100-356147-1
FBI - NEW YORK
AUGUST 6, 1953
JHK:MRC

FD-36

AIR-TEL
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NY, 8/7/53

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION, IS - R&AR. REBULET 7/29LAST.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Gearty
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Mr. ...
man
...
...
[Handwritten signature]

FOIA b (3) - 50 USC 3024 i 1 - Intelligence Sources and Methods

IT IS NOTED THAT BY LETTER OF

5/7/53, THIS OFFICE ADVISED DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE OFFICE, THIRD NAVAL DISTRICT OF THE VISIT OF MRS. SARKISIAN TO NYO ON 4/29/53, AND HER STATEMENTS AT THAT TIME. BUREAU WILL BE PROMPTLY ADVISED OF RESULTS OF FURTHER EFFORTS TO SECURE INFO REQUESTED BY REBULET.

APC
BOARDMAN

RECORDED - 47 100-356141-8

AUG 10 1953

EX-103

(3) - BUREAU (100-356147) (REGISTERED REGULAR MAIL)

JRC:PEC (#7)

100-46846

Approved:

LVB
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

MATTANEO

5
PC

AIR-TEL
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, 8/11/53.

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU.....

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION, IS DASH R AND AR.

JULY 29, LAST AND MY AIR-TEL AUGUST 7, LAST.

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson | _____ |
| Mr. Ladd | _____ |
| Mr. Nichols | _____ |
| Mr. Belmont | _____ |
| Mr. Clegg | _____ |
| Mr. Glavin | _____ |
| Mr. Harbo | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen | _____ |
| Mr. Tracy | _____ |
| Mr. Gearty | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr | _____ |
| Mr. Winterrowd | _____ |
| REURER | _____ |

WGAN

FOIA b (3) - 50 USC 3024 (i) 1 - Intelligence Sources and Methods

UACB, NYO WILL CONDUCT

NO FURTHER ACTION IN INSTANT MATTER

RECORDED 40 100-356147-9

See Ser. 10

EX-126

AUG 12 1953

BOARDMAN

(3) Bureau (100-356147)

JRK:AMM(#7)

Approved: 100-46846

SUB Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

79 SEP 21 1953

100-356147

MS CATTANEO

FOIA b 1

FOIA b 1

FOIA b 1

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-356147)

DATE: 9/4/53

FROM : SAC, New York (100-46846)

1 CO of corrected enc. by
RJA to CIA Staff RAB
+ INS 9-21-53
PJC/9cSUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
IS - R & AR

Rebulet 8/12/53 requesting submission of contents of unsigned letter dated 7/1/53 addressed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of NY memo dated 7/28/53 and NY memo dated 12/9/52 in a blind memo.

Enclosed are five copies of a blind memo containing the contents of the above.

The source classified as of unknown reliability, who furnished the information on 11/17/52 and 11/18 and 20/52 is Mrs. BEATRICE ALTMAYER ~~RODNEY~~ KELEKIAN, a native born citizen, who resides at 19 East 80 Street, NYC. She has stated that she considers the Armenian General Benevolent Union to be a fraud and to be engaged in subversive activities. She has stated that her husband was the surviving heir of a wealthy art dealer, DIKRAN KELEKIAN, who committed suicide in NYC in 1950. She stated that DIKRAN KELEKIAN was an Armenian patriot who was aged and feeble and that while she and her husband were in Europe in 1950 members of the AGBU influenced DIKRAN KELEKIAN to leave his entire fortune to the AGBU to be used for patriotic Armenian reasons. She also stated that shortly after signing a new will DIKRAN KELEKIAN jumped to his death from a hotel window.

Reliable sources of the New York Office have advised that AGBU was regarded by all Armenians as being a legitimate charitable organization.

Efforts made to ascertain the identity of the author of the referenced unsigned letter were unsuccessful. Mrs. BEATRICE KELEKIAN advised that she was not the author of it.

In regard to the fact that the copy of unsigned letter forwarded to the Bureau contained no indication that copies had been sent by the writer to the Attorney General and to INS, the original unsigned letter contained a notation at the top of page one which stated "A copy of this letter is going to the Honorable HERBERT BROWNL, Jr. and the Department of Naturalization and Immigration." This sentence was inadvertently omitted when the copy of the unsigned letter was made.

Since there is no further investigation to be conducted by the NYO this case is being closed.

Encs. (5)

SEP 30 1953

24

RECORDED-21

SEP 8 1953

INDEXED-21

8

EX-103

ES-103

JHK:BA

August 30, 1953

Armenian General Benevolent Union
295 Fifth Avenue
New York City

On November 17, 18 and 20, 1952, a source of unknown reliability advised that the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) was a fraud and was engaged in subversive activities. The source indicated that a scandal existed among the Armenian Colony in that numerous older wealthy Armenians had been influenced by the Armenian General Benevolent Union to change their wills, leaving the money to the Armenian General Benevolent Union and cutting off surviving children penniless. The Melkonian will case of 1925 was cited as an example and it was said that in this case the Egyptian tobacco "King" left his money to the Armenian General Benevolent Union cutting off relatives who later managed to "break the will". The Souren case in which Wilhelmina Souren, the widow of a wealthy stamp dealer of New York City was left penniless by her husband who left all his money to the Armenian General Benevolent Union was also cited.

The source also advised that the Armenian General Benevolent Union was founded in 1906 by Armenians, outside of Armenia; for the purpose of aiding orphans of the Turkish Massacres. The Armenian General Benevolent Union later branched out and began assisting Armenians in Syria, Lebanon and other countries in Asia Minor building schools and orphanages. The Melkonian settlement gave the Armenian General Benevolent Union one million dollars to build schools in Armenia (now Soviet Armenia).

Concerning the finances of the Armenian General Benevolent Union the source indicated that at one time branches of the Armenian General Benevolent Union had money in all the major banks of Europe, chiefly the Banque Vandoise in Luzerne, Switzerland. The source also stated that it had been ascertained from what was considered a reliable source that all the money had been "smuggled" into the U.S. and that the Armenian General Benevolent Union had approximately \$8,000,000.00 in its account.

The source advised that the Armenian General Benevolent Union was engaged in espionage but had nothing specific on which to base this statement except that the Armenian General Benevolent Union transmitted funds to Soviet Armenia for the support of schools and orphanages and had no positive knowledge of the ultimate use of the funds.

COPIES DESTROYED

R475 DEC 4 1962

This is
from Ser 3

100 - 35614 7-11
ENCLOSURE

It was stated by the same source that the Armenian General Benevolent Union in 1946 assisted in the collection of funds for the repatriation of Armenians to Soviet Armenia and that in the bulletin of the Armenian General Benevolent Union there were numerous "ads" which offered congratulations to those returning and expressing confidence that one million dollars could be raised to assist the repatriates.

The source questioned the loyalty to the United States of a number of Armenian General Benevolent Union members but had nothing specific on which to base an opinion in this regard. It was mentioned that Haik Kavookjian and James Chankalian went to Soviet Armenia officially as members of the Armenian General Benevolent Union in 1945 and returned in 1946. It was also mentioned that Miss Vava Katchadoorian was very friendly with the Russian Consul in New York City and Washington, D.C.

An anonymous letter dated July 1, 1953 contained references to the Armenian General Benevolent Union. It indicated that Arshag Karagheusian had retired from the Armenian General Benevolent Union and that his duties has been taken over by his son, Charles Karagheusian. It also stated that Karagheusian has and still picks the contacts which get money and goods to Soviet Armenian and stated that this was over and above what was sent with permission of the State Department.

This anonymous communication mentioned Mrs. Hagop (Jeanne) Andonian, a naturalized citizen of Armenian origin, as one of the contacts and indicated that she was presently out of the United States and that her itinerary includes Egypt, Turkey, France, Switzerland. It stated that her trip was allegedly to give a series of lectures.

The letter also indicated that Jeanne Andonian when in Paris stayed at the home of Lydia Karine, a Russian Armenian, 73 Faubourg Poissonniere, and that Lydia Karine's father, Eshkalakian was a communist who was active in the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

The communication further indicated that the contacts of Jeanne Andonian abroad who were engaged in subversive activity were Angele Minellis, 46 Rue Poissoniere, Paris,

FRANCE

~~FRANCE~~
Vava Katcha Dourian, 33 Rue Bayen, Paris, Garbis Dilsizian,
address not known and Alice Melkon, 5640 Netherlands Avenue,
Bronx, New York who travels abroad. There were no instances
of subversive activities set out.

Sources of known reliability have advised that the Armenian General Benevolent Union is known to all Armenians as a legitimate charitable organization. *NY*

August 30, 1953

Armenian General Benevolent Union
295 Fifth Avenue
New York City

On November 17, 18 and 20, 1952, a source of unknown reliability advised that the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) was a fraud and was engaged in subversive activities. The source indicated that a scandal existed among the Armenian Colony in that numerous older wealthy Armenians had been influenced by the Armenian General Benevolent Union to change their wills, leaving the money to the Armenian General Benevolent Union and cutting off surviving children penniless. The Melkonian will case of 1925 was cited as an example and it was said that in this case the Egyptian tobacco "King" left his money to the Armenian General Benevolent Union cutting off relatives who later managed to "break the will". The Souren case in which Wilhelmina Souren, the widow of a wealthy stamp dealer of New York City was left penniless by her husband who left all his money to the Armenian General Benevolent Union was also cited.

The source also advised that the Armenian General Benevolent Union was founded in 1906 by Armenians, outside of Armenia, for the purpose of aiding orphans of the Turkish Massacres. The Armenian General Benevolent Union later branched out and began assisting Armenians in Syria, Lebanon and other countries in Asia Minor, building schools and orphanages. The Melkonian settlement gave the Armenian General Benevolent Union one million dollars to build schools in Armenia (now Soviet Armenia).

Concerning the finances of the Armenian General Benevolent Union the source indicated that at one time branches of the Armenian General Benevolent Union had money in all the major banks of Europe, chiefly the Banque Vandoise in Luzerne, Switzerland. The source also stated that it had been ascertained from what was considered a reliable source that all the money had been "smuggled" into the U.S. and that the Armenian General Benevolent Union had approximately \$8,000,000.00 in its account.

The source advised that the Armenian General Benevolent Union was engaged in espionage but had nothing specific on which to base this statement except that the Armenian General Benevolent Union transmitted funds to Soviet Armenia for the support of schools and orphanages and had no positive knowledge of the ultimate use of the funds.

COPIES DESTROYED
R472 DEC 4 1962

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The source questioned the loyalty to the United States of a number of Armenian General Benevolent Union members but had nothing specific on which to base an opinion in this regard. It was mentioned that Haik Kavookjian and James Chankalian went to Soviet Armenia officially as members of the Armenian General Benevolent Union in 1945 and returned in 1946.

Source advised that the following persons were members of the AGBU and were probably not loyal American citizens:

ARSHAG KARAGHEUSIAN, President of the AGBU, and CHARLES KARAGHEUSIAN, his son, both of whom reside at 145 Central Park West, N.Y.C., and who owns the A. and M. Karagheusian Rug Company at 295 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C.

HAIK KAVOOKJIAN and his son HOWARD, who reside at the Hotel Novarro, N.Y.C., and at an estate in Darien, Connecticut, both of whom are active in the AGBU.

RICHARD K. GREGORY who is President of the American branch of the AGBU and who resides at 6804 Burns Street, Forest Hills, NY.

GALLABI GULBENKIAN who owns the Gulbenkian Seamless Rug Company of New Brunswick, New Jersey, and who is active in the AGBU and who resides at 50 Prospect Avenue, Larchmont, NY.

VAHAN KURKJIAN who is active in the AGBU and employed at their office 295 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C., and who resides at 320 Wadsworth Avenue, N.Y.C.

Mrs. M. HOVSEPIAN who travels widely in Europe and the Middle East and who could be an espionage subject although ostensibly traveling under the AGBU auspices.

Miss VAVA KATCHADOORIAN who is very friendly with "the Russian Consul in N.Y.C. and Washington" and who travels widely in Europe and the Near East as an artist, although a very poor painter. KATCHADOORIAN says she is poor but she spends a good deal of money. KATCHADOORIAN resides in N.Y.C. at 48 West 56 Street or 152 West 57th Street and in Paris at 39 Rue Du 22 Septembre or at 33 Rue Beyen in care of Sarian.

An anonymous letter dated July 1, 1953, reads as follows:

REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF JEAN ANDONIAN, 83-09 Talbot St., Kew Gardens, N.Y., IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION OF AMERICA, 295 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C.

The Armenian General Benevolent Union has recently announced the retirement of Arshag Karagheusian from all activities in connection with this organization. Actually his son, Charles, has taken over under the direction of his father. Their home address is 145 Central Park West, business at 295 Fifth Avenue, same as the A.G.B.U. Karagheusian has, and still picks the contacts which get money and goods to Soviet Armenia, much more than they may be permitted to send with permission they claim they have from our State Department.

Specifically, one of the people currently engaged in such an activity is Mrs. Hagop Andonian, also known as Jean or Jeanne Andonian or Jeanne Philipous Andonian, whose pen name is Janine May and who resides at the address indicated above with her husband. Jean Andonian is a naturalized citizen of Armenian origin born in the Near East.

This individual left the United States approximately six or seven weeks ago. Her itinerary if carried out as planned includes Egypt, Turkey, France, Switzerland and if possible Lebanon and Austria. In most of these countries the A.G.B.U. operates. Her alleged reason for going is to give a series of lectures. She has already been to Istanbul and is now in Paris. In Paris she is

staying with Mademoiselle Lydia Karine, 73 Faubourg Poissonniere. Lydia Karine is a Russian Armenian. Her father whose name is Eshkalakian is a communist and is active in the Paris branch of the A.G.B.U. which is located at the Square Alboni in the 16 arrondissement. Lydia Karine came to the United States last year for the alleged reason of giving song recitals and one such was given in New York's Town Hall.

It is to be noted here that the agents and officers of this organization play on the "cultural angle."

JEAN ANDONIAN'S CONTACTS ABROAD ENGAGED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

Angele Minelli, 46 Rue Poissonniere, Paris. Mrs. Minelli was ordered to leave this country about two years ago. Her address is close to that of Karine.

Vava Katchadourian, Russian born Armenian, family still in Russia. One brother resides in Paris at 110 Rue Cardinet. This address was the residence and dressmaking establishment of his wife. Since actively engaged with his sister the dressmaking business has been given up. The brother's last name is Sarian and the wife's maiden name was Bedrossian. Vava maintains two apartments in Paris, 33 Rue Bayen and 39 Rue du 22 Septembre, Becon les Bruyeres. This is considered a Paris suburb but is reached by subway. In New York Mrs. Katchadourian maintains two apartments, 48 West 56 Street and 152 West 57 Street, Hagop Boyadjian lives in the 56 Street apartment. The painter, Sarian, the prominent painter in Soviet Russia is closely related to Vava Katchadourian.

Jean Andonian and Vava work in close unison abroad and here when Vava was in this country.

Garbis Dilsizian, a former business associate of Hagop Andonian disappeared from this country hurriedly and mysteriously about six years ago. Hagop Andonian was closely associated with this man knowing fully his reputation. Their last offices were in the Empire State Building. It has been impossible for the writer to ascertain whether Jean Andonian has been instructed to meet with him. Dilsizian has relatives in this city and the last they would give out was that he was in Burma. Andonian would know where he is.

Alice Melkon, a young woman born in Lebanon is a link here in New York. She is the wife of Sam Melkon, 5640 Netherlands Avenue, Bronx, and travels to Lebanon and the Near East frequently, in the past year, at least twice. The step father of Sam Melkon is Haig Kavookjian, Hotel Navarro, 59 Street, Darien Conn., and Red Bank, N.J. Kavookjian is one of the most active members of the A.G.B.U. working closely with Karagheusian. He went to Russia in 1946 with the Capt. James Chankalian, father of Armand Chankalian, former assistant U.S. attorney for N.Y. and one of those questioned before the Crime Commission last winter. Kavookjian was the most active in raising money to repatriate American Armenians in 1946.

Jean Andonian and her husband are very closely tied with every name mentioned in this letter.

Andonian's earnings from his business, 309 Fifth Avenue, where he has desk room to conduct his so called export, import business are extremely meagre and his wife's alleged earnings from her writings, which are in French and have almost no sale whatsoever, and from lectures she occasionally gives in order to establish herself as a lecturer in anticipation of her work abroad, are negligible.

She is due back around September first and this trip of five months is being subsidized by the Armenians on whose subversive business she is travelling.

Respectfully

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-356147)

DATE: 10/21/53

118
FROM : SAC, New York (100-46846)SUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
IS - R and AR

Reference is made to Bulet dated 7/29/53

FOIA b 3 - 50 USC 3024 i 1 - Intelligence Sources and Methods

Reference is also made to NY tels dated 8/7 and 11/53
 in which the Bureau was advised of the NYO's action in this
 case.

FOIA b 3 - 50 USC 3024 i 1 - Intelligence Sources and Methods

Since there is no further investigation to be conducted
 by the NYO this case is being closed.

JHK:MG

RECORDED - 68

EX-121

100-356147-12

NY 56

Estimator

D.R.H.

7/23/53

FBI - NY

FBI - NY
FBI - SEC



**THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
American Embassy
Paris 8, France**

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

G.I.R.-3

Date: January 20, 1955.

To: Director, FBI

From: Legat, Paris (105-0)

Subject: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
INTERNAL SECURITY - R & ARMENIAN

file 1 -

On 1/18/55 [redacted] reported that the captioned organization, with headquarters at 295 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, New York, is possibly engaged in activities which may be inimical to the best interests of the United States. This source related that the captioned organization is a philanthropic Armenian society which distributes funds throughout the world for needy Armenian causes. Reportedly, most of these funds are contributed by wealthy American Armenians and, although the parent organization in New York is free of Communist taint, the subsidiary branches, which are located in most of the large cities throughout the world, are directed by Communists or Communist sympathizers. According to the informant, a number of the directors of the branch societies of captioned organization in Europe and the Near East are known to him to be Communists. The source declared that many influential Armenians in Europe resented U. S. funds being used by Armenians in Europe and the Near East for Communist purposes.

It was not possible to secure additional information from the informant, and he was very vague as to precise facts. The above is being furnished to the Bureau, however, as of possible interest.

ROL:CM

RECORDED-91
EX-128

100 - 356142 13

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2-2-55 from / MSS. - LIBRARY DIVISION

543

56 FEB - 9 1955



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOIA(b) (7) - (D)
American Embassy
Paris 8, France

Date: February 16, 1955

To: Director, FBI

From: Legat, Paris (105-0-347)

Subject: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
INTERNAL SECURITY - R & ARMENIAN

Reourlet 1/20/55.

Enclosed herewith are three copies of a self-explanatory memorandum containing information furnished by [redacted]. A copy of the attached memorandum was passed to CIA and the Embassy at Paris.

Enclosure - 3

ENCL
33

ROL:CM

RECORDED - 33

INDEXED-33

100-356147-14

2 FEB 1955

RECEIVED
FEB 19 1955
SEC. OF STATE
RECORDED

FEB 20 1955
RECORDED

FEB 20 1955
RECORDED

RECORDED

2 FEB 1955



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 16, 1955

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

On February 15, 1955, a source who has furnished both reliable and unreliable information reported that the Armenian General Benevolent Union at Paris employs one ACHOT PATMAGRIAN. According to this source, ACHOT PATMAGRIAN was at one time the leader of the Armenian Communist Party in Paris.

It has come to his attention, the informant reported, that the Armenian General Benevolent Union is presently operating a school called "Ecole Tebrotzasser", 1 Boulevard du Nord, Le Raincy (Seine-et-Oise). The director of the school is one Madame AGULINE BOYADJIAN. According to source, she is a Communist. She used to be married to one MOURAD, who was also a Communist.

Aguline Boyadjian

According to source, captioned organization is a philanthropic Armenian society with headquarters in New York which distributes funds throughout the world for needy Armenian causes. Reportedly, most of these funds are contributed by wealthy American Armenians and, although the parent organization in New York is free of Communist taint, the subsidiary branches which are located in many of the large cities throughout the world are directed by Communists or Communist sympathizers.

COPIES DESTROYED

R472 DEC 4 1962

ENCLOSURE~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



U. S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE

ADDRESS REPLY TO
COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
AND REFER TO

at
0:I:I

SEP 4. 1957

INDEXED 21
etc. 1-1
Enc 1-1

Mr. John Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

CHARLES D. KELEKIAN

Dear Mr. Hoover:

We are attaching a photostat of a letter dated August 26, 1957, from Mr. Charles D. Kelekian for your consideration, since he alleges subversive activities on the part of Armenian General Benevolent Union of America, Inc., 250 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Mr. Kelekian has been advised concerning this referral.

Very truly yours,

J. Perry August
Director, Intelligence Division

RECEIVED
SEP 5 1957

32

0

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE
1/2
100-356147-15
RECORDED - 21 15 SEP 5 1957
INDEXED - 21 10
EX-125
FBI - NEW YORK
63 SEP 1957

100-356147-15
SE 45

RECORDED - 21 15 SEP 5 1957
INDEXED - 21 10
EX-125

100-356147
FBI - NEW YORK
63 SEP 1957

CHARLES DIKAN KELEKIAN
19 East 80 Street
New York City, 21, N.Y.

Honorable Harrington
Commissioner of Internal Revenue
Washington, D.C.

August 26, 1957

Dear Sir,

Not known whether claim will be filed.

Re: Armenian General Benevolent Union
and/or
Armenian General Benevolent Union of America, Inc.
and/or
Armenian General Benevolent Union of America

Address: 250 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N.Y.

The above named tax exempt Organization is a tax evading, subversive entity engaging in a minimum of the work it alleges to be doing, in order to remain in existence. It indulges in and has indulged in what it specifically states in its Charter it is not doing.

The Organization (to be referred to in this letter as the AGBU) is attempting frantically at the moment to regularize its status in Switzerland also in France and in the United States in order not to be obliged to stop its tax evading, subversive activities.

The writer will go into some detail specifying names and events in Part Two of this letter after attempting to convey the general set up of the Organization.

The above named groups are used particularly for Tax Evasion and Subversion by those who have membership in the special categories as provided for in its Charter, those who serve as Officers of the Organization, those on the Central Committee which controls the activities through controlled voting and also a group of individuals who are not in any of the categories mentioned above but are "under cover" workers, these latter generally just ordinary members or appearing to have resigned from the Organization.

There is still another group whose chief source of livelihood is derived from trafficking on the tax exemption granted the Organization with the help of the Central Committee and the powers vested therein and the apparent absence of sufficient control and check-up to this point, by the U.S. authorities.

Their technique is to divide the activities among certain groups which are closely controlled by the Central Committee in order for the structure to be complicated and wide-spread and difficult in the event of investigation.

Its International aspect facilitates its activities in Tax Evasion and Subversion.

Reports are devised at regular intervals to satisfy the U.S. authorities in the event of possible questioning about their varied manipulations. These are carefully composed and checked by some associated with this group who direct Armenians they believe to be influential and above suspicion up to the present, to assume authorship of the Reports.

Honorable Harrington

Re. AGBU

CROSS DIRECTORSHIPS

Cross Directorships in another questionable tax exempt Foundation, The Gullabi Gulbenkian Foundation, 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City, are held by members of the Central Committee of the AGBU, some of the so called regular members and some of the under cover workers. These names will also be given with data.

PENSIONS

There are individuals in and out of the United States, American citizens and non-Americans receiving life pensions payable in tax exempt dollars, these pensions continuing to accrue to wife and family in the event of the death of the recipient. These individuals are receiving the pensions for the work they have been doing and are doing for the AGBU against the interests of the United States. Names and data will be given.

INTERNATIONAL ASPECT

Some facts about specific individuals who operate internationally for the AGBU and photostats of some documentation will be included in Part Two of this letter. This will reveal the technique used by the Organization for this phase of its activity.

ESTATE MANIPULATION

There are lawyers and others in the AGBU, who through devious methods manage to obtain last minute wills from aged and dying individuals. There are picked groups from the categories mentioned above who are named to serve as executors. Sometimes an Officer of the AGBU who is a lawyer draws the last minute will.

The Estates of particular interest are those in which valuable assets can be stolen or substituted. The original assets are often sold outside of the United States with the resultant loss in inheritance taxes and undeclared Income Taxes by the individuals who derive the proceeds of these sales. Names and data to be given.

The international aspect is here brought into play as will be brought out.

TRAVELLING IN CONNECTION WITH TAX EVASION AND SUBVERSION

Taking advantage of the fact that U.S. authorities have not checked on their activities carried out in Soviet Armenia and other parts of the Near East--Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Cyprus, the Organization has a group of "travellers." The Reports I mentioned previously supposedly emanate from these "travellers." These Reports describe deplorable conditions in schools and living conditions among Armenians for whom the AGBU has been allegedly having fund raising drives for years but the same trouble spots never improve.

Usually the objectives of the travellers are as follows:

- A pleasure trip which becomes tax deductible.
- Disposal of assets outside of the U.S., the proceeds of which remain undeclared.
- Contacting agents for the Organization in the above named countries and other countries such as Austria and Italy, in order that funds and sometimes merchandise earmarked for Schools and Hospitals allegedly be diverted elsewhere, directly or indirectly to Soviet Armenia.
- Contacting and using to this end the Armenian Church and Clergy, the headquarters of which is in Etchmiadzin, Soviet Armenia.

Re. AGBU

Honorable Harrington

I have testimony taken under oath of two members of the AGBU, one of whom is on the Central Board of Directors, which I place at your disposal, if you desire it. This testimony is relevant to a great deal of what is contained in these letters.

In Part Two of this letter which you will receive shortly I shall mention names of individuals in connection with their activities in this Organization as known to me.

I have strong reason to know, in spite of their efforts to conceal, that a great deal of activity is taking place at the moment. Therefore I feel it is urgent to get this to you as quickly as possible.

I would ask you to kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter to my home address, 19 East 80 Street, New York City, 21, N.Y.

I presume I may expect the protection of secrecy from my government in submitting this and those to follow.

Very truly yours,

Charles D. Keleian

Charles D. Keleian



HONORABLE HARRINGTON
COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
United States America



RECEIVED

AUG 29 10 48 AM '57

INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
WASHINGTON D.C.



C.D.Keltekian
28 Ave. d, Lene
Paris, 16, France

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: September 11, 1957

FROM : William F. Tompkins, Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

SUBJECT: Armenian General Benevolent Union, et al.

GIR 14

| |
|--------------|
| Mr. Tolson |
| Mr. Nichols |
| Mr. Boardman |
| Mr. Belmont |
| Mr. Rosen |
| Mr. Mohr |
| Mr. Nease |
| Miss Gandy |

There is forwarded herewith for your information and any action deemed advisable, a copy of a letter dated August 26, 1957 from Charles Dikran Kelekian, regarding the above organization.

Mr. Kelekian's letter has been acknowledged, but he has not been advised of this referral.

Enclosure

RECORDED-56

INDEXED - 56

13 SEP 18 1957 /00-356147

67 SEP 23 1957

ENCLOSURE

56

F 35

Previously rec'd from
Int. Sec. Bureau
8/28

1

CHARLES A. KIRK
19 East 20 St.
New York City, N.Y.

Honorable Herbert A. Brownell
Attorney General of the United States
Washington, D.C.

August 27, 1952

Dear Sir,

Re. Armenian General Benevolent Union
and/or

Armenian General Benevolent Union of America
and/or

Armenian General Benevolent Union of America, Inc. ~~Inc.~~
Address: 250 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N.Y.

The above named Tax Exempt Organization is a tax evading, subversive entity engaging in a minimum of the work it alleges to be doing, in order to remain in existence. It indulges in and has indulged in what it specifically states in its Charter it is not doing.

The Organization (to be referred to in this letter as the AGBU) is attempting frantically at the moment to regularize its status in Switzerland, also in France and in the United States in order not to be obliged to stop its tax evading, subversive activities.

The writer will go into some detail specifying names and events in Part Two of this letter after attempting to convey the general set-up of the Organization.

The above named groups are used particularly for Tax Evasion and Subversion by those who have membership in the special categories as provided for in its Charter, those who serve as Officers of the Organization, those on the Central Committee or Board of Directors which controls the activities through controlled voting and also a group of individuals who are not in any of the categories mentioned above but are "under cover" workers, these latter generally just ordinary members or appearing to have resigned from the Organization.

There is still another group whose chief source of livelihood is derived from trafficking on the tax exemption granted the Organization with the help of the Central Committee or Board of Directors and the powers vested therein and the apparent absence of sufficient control and check-up to this point, by the U.S. authorities. For instance, one Hafiz Kavookjian, president of Bingham Photo-Engraving Co. at 330 West 42 St., N.Y.C. has turned out photographs for use by the Armenian Progressive League. This latter Organization is known to the Justice Dep't. of the U.S. as being a subversive body.

Their technique is to divide the activities among certain groups which are closely controlled by the Central Committee in order for the structure to be complicated and wide-spread and difficult in the event of investigation.

Its International Aspect facilitates its activities in Tax Evasion and Subversion.

Reports are devised at regular intervals to satisfy the U.S. authorities in the event of possible questioning about their varied manipulations. These are carefully composed and checked by some associated with this group who direct Armenians they believe to be influential and above suspicion up to the present, to assume authorship of the Reports.

168
ENCLOSURE

CROSS DIRECTORSHIPS

Cross Directorships in another questionable Foundation, The Gullabi Galbenkian Foundation, 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City, are held by members of the Central Committee or Board of Directors of the AGBU, some of the so called regular members and some of the under cover workers. These names will also be given with data.

PENSIONS

There are individuals in and out of the United States, American citizens and non-Americans receiving life pensions payable in tax exempt dollars, these pensions continuing to accrue to wife and family in the event of the death of the recipient. These individuals are receiving the pensions for the work they have been doing and are doing for the AGBU against the interests of the United States. Names and data will be given.

INTERNATIONAL ASPECT

Some facts about specific individuals who operate internationally for the AGBU and photocopies of some documentation will be included in Part Two of this letter. This will reveal the technique used by the Organization for this phase of its activity.

ESTATE MANIPULATION

There are lawyers and others in the AGBU, who through devious methods manage to obtain last minute wills from aged and dying individuals. There are picked groups from the categories mentioned above who are named to serve as executors. Sometimes an Officer of the AGBU who is a lawyer draws the last minute will.

The Estates of particular interest are those in which valuable assets can be stolen or substituted. The original assets are often sold outside of the United States with the resultant loss in inheritance taxes and undeclared Income Taxes by the individuals who derive the proceeds of these sales. Names and data to be given.

The International aspect is here brought into play as will be brought out.

TRAVELLING IN CONNECTION WITH TAX EVASION AND SURREPTION

Taking advantage of the fact that U.S. authorities have not checked on their activities carried out in Soviet Armenia and other parts of the Near East—Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Cyprus, the Organization has a group of "travellers." The Reports I mentioned previously supposedly emanate from these "travellers." These Reports describe deplorable conditions in schools and living conditions among Armenians for whom the AGRU has been allegedly having fund raising drives for years but the same trouble spots never improve.

Usually the objectives of the travellers are as follows:

—Contacting agents for the Organization in the above named countries and other countries such as Austria and Italy, in order that funds and sometimes merchandise earmarked for Schools and Hospitals allegedly be diverted elsewhere, directly or indirectly to Soviet Armenia.

~~Honorable Herbert A. Brownell~~

~~Dear Mr. A.E.~~

— Contacting and using to this end the Armenian Church and Clergy, the headquarters of which is in Ptchmidzjin, Soviet Armenia. I will give information on this in my date on Haik Kavockjian.

— A pleasure trip which becomes tax deductible.

— Disposal of assets outside the U.S. which remain undeclared.

In Part Two of this letter which you will receive shortly I shall mention names of individuals in connection with their activities in this Organization as known to me.

I would ask you to kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter to my home address, 19 East 80 Street, New York City, 21, N.Y.

I presume I may expect the protection of secrecy from my government in submitting this and those to follow.

Very truly yours,

~~Charles H. Keladian~~

FOIA (b) 1

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

October 19, 1959

- Name Check Unit - Room 6523
 Service Unit - Room 6524
 Forward to File Review
 Attention _____
 Return to G. C. MOORE 1539 2103
Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

- Regular Request (Analytical Search)
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
 Subversive References Only
 Nonsubversive References Only
 Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

- Restricted to Locality of _____
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
 Buildup Variations
 Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

Subject ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

Birthdate & Place of QUEENS, NEW YORK

Address _____

Localities _____

R# Date 10-19 Searcher Shy
Initials _____
FILE NUMBER SERIAL

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| | Armenian Gen. Benevolent Union | |
| | 100-356147 all sectn | |
| | 100-352489 51 | |
| | 100-28165 362 | |
| | 100-332237 7 | |
| | 40-79027 1 | |
| | The Armenian Review "Winter, 1954 | |
| | p. 19 see: Publications | |
| | 2-543 19-8 | |
| | 100-15648 572 p. 68 | |
| | 105-32419 1 | |
| | 100-15648 265 | |
| | 100-0 28399 | |
| | 65-56402 1187 p. 6 | |
| | 61-1364 49 | |
| | 100-203581 4723 p. 10 | |
| | 100-17342 137 | |
| | 100-196469 3 | |
| | 100-282774 1 | |
| | 100-311920 7 | |

NUMEROUS REFERENCES

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Armenian Gen. Benevolent Union

Supervisor Moore Room 1539

R# _____ Date 10-19 Searcher JM
Initial JM

| FILE NUMBER | SERIAL |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 62-64427-3 | 368 |
| 65-56402 | 901 |
| 65-58295 | 55 |
| 100-0 | 22476 |
| 100-15648 | 122 p. 21 ; 43 |
| | 32 " 100 p. 5 |
| | 30 p. 79, 80 |
| 100-341862 | 21X |
| 100-829 | 950 |
| 100-339147 | 6 p. 9 |
| 100-196469 | 42 |
| 61-1364 | 58 |
| 100-311920 | 8 |
| 65-30092 | 1254X4 |
| 64-1006 | 104 p. 22 |
| 100-345401 | 22 |
| 65-57766 | 166 |
| 100-357033 | 4 |
| 100-196469 | 7 |
| 65-57766 | 164 |
| 65-58663 | 18 |
| 65-30092 | 3028 p. 5 |
| Armenian Gen. Union of America | |
| 100-356147 | |
| 100-66668 | 65 incl p. 199 |
| Armenian Gen. Union of America, Inc. | |
| 100-356147 | |
| 100-356147 | 2 sum. 8-51 |
| 62-60527 | 32053 sum. 12-52 |
| 65-56402 | 1550 p. 28 |
| 100-15648 | 137 |

NUMEROUS REFERENCES

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Armenian Gen. Benevolent Union

Supervisor Moore Room 1539
 R# _____ Date 10-19 Searcher JM
 Initial JM

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Armenian Gen. Benevolent Ass.

65-30092 726100-15648 122, p. 25, 3062-68338 87

Armenian Gen. Benefit Union

80-7 1141; 1192,A. G. B. U. 100-356147 100-346794 21 p. 9100-15648 265100-0 28399100-332237 7100-15648 122, p. 10100-196469 4261-1364 58100-332237 6

No other variations searched

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Foreign Service
of the
United States of America

COPY

American Embassy
Beirut, Lebanon,
April 5, 1961.

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Armin:

This morning I made some of my annual Easter calls on various prelates in Lebanon. These included His Beatitude, Paul Boutros ~~Seouchi~~, the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, my good friend Archbishop Philip ~~Nabas~~, head of the Greek Catholic church, and another good friend, His Holiness Zre I. ~~Catholicos of the Armenian Orthodox Church of Cilicia.~~

When I asked the Catholicos how things were going in the Armenian community, he said that the fight against communist influence in the church was on the whole moving reasonably well. However, he protested very strongly at what he claimed was American private support for communist elements in the Armenian communities of Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. He said the Armenian General Benevolent Union whose President is one Mr. Alex Manoukian of Detroit, Michigan, was steadily sending funds to its branch offices in these three Near Eastern countries who in turn were supporting communist-inspired schools and religious institutions. By way of example, His Holiness said that last May at an Armenian school north of Aleppo near the Turkish frontier the Director of the school actually paraded a portrait of Stalin. The Catholicos added that there is a group of dissident Armenian priests in Lebanon who are "sheltered" by the General Benevolent Union. He expressed fear as to an increasing communist ascendancy in the Armenian community on Cyprus which likewise, he says, receives monetary support from the Benevolent Union.

EX-116

Knowing

REC 37

100-356147-18

Armin H. Meyer, Esquire,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near
Eastern and South Asian Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

25 JUL 12 1961

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Let-NY
2-DETROIT
7-11-61
ART:ds
2nd Bureau
by R.P. 7-2-61

5 A.R. [Signature]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

Knowing what a can of agile worms can be opened by poking up the American Armenian community, I thought it best to draw this allegation by His Holiness to your attention by an informal letter. I am sending copies to other interested colleagues as you will see below.

[redacted]
Knowing how emotional the Armenians are, it is possible that His Holiness has exaggerated his charges. On the other hand it would seem idiotic for the United States to countenance the subvention of communist activity abroad by any well-intentioned philanthropic organization based in the United States.

I shall let you know the results, if any, of our investigations.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT MCINTOCK
U.S. AMBASSADOR

c.c. [redacted]

The Honorable Fraser Wilkins, Nicosia,
Ridgway B. Knight, Esquire, Consul General, Damascus,
Philip W. Ireland, Esquire, Consul General, Aleppo,
The Honorable Norbert L. Arschuetz, Charge d'Affaires, Cairo.

1 - Mr. Jones

SAC, New York (100-46846)

7/11/61

EX-116

REC-37

Director, FBI (100-356147) — 18

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA
(OO: New York)

Enclosed for each recipient is a copy of a self-explanatory letter dated 4/5/61 from United States Ambassador Robert McClintock, Beirut, Lebanon, to Mr. Armin H. Meyer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington, D. C. A copy of this letter was furnished Bureau by State Department by liaison with the request that we determine whether there is any basis for the allegation therein.

Bureau files indicate that New York was office of origin in an investigation of captioned organization in 1952 based on a similar allegation that this organization was engaged in subversive activities. Again in 1957 a complaint was received that this organization was engaged in subversive activities.

New York should contact its informants and sources for up-to-date information concerning the officers and the activities of captioned organization. It should set forth the results of its inquiries in a report suitable for dissemination. This report should include the pertinent information previously developed concerning the organization.

Detroit should, through its informants and sources, obtain information concerning the activities of captioned organization and should develop background data concerning Alex Nanoukian, who is indicated to be the president of captioned organization. Submit results in a report.

Enclosure

2 - Detroit (Enclosure)

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
ogram _____
Landy _____

ARJ:br *hr*

NOTE: State Department communication dated 4/5/61, which was furnished Bureau by liaison on 7/3/61, indicates that an Armenian church official in Cilicia (Turkey) expressed concern at what he

NOTE CONTINUED PAGE 2

62 JUL 17 1961 MAIL ROOM X TELETYPE UNIT

Letter to SAC, New York
Re: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
100-356147

NOTE CONTINUED:

claimed was American private support for communist elements in the Armenian communities of Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. He indicates that the Armenian General Benevolent Union, whose president is Alex Maioukain of Detroit, Michigan, was steadily sending funds to branch offices in these three Near Eastern countries who in turn were supporting communist-inspired schools and religious institutions.

Bureau files reveal that in 1952 the Armenian General Benevolent Union, 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City, was alleged to be a fraud and to be engaged in subversive activities. It was alleged that numerous older wealthy Armenians had been influenced by this organization to change their wills, leaving their money to the organization, and thus cutting off the inheritance of their spouses and surviving children. It was alleged that the organization transmitted funds to Soviet Armenia for support of schools and orphanages but source had no positive knowledge of the ultimate use of the funds. The organization was also alleged to have solicited funds for the repatriation of Armenians to Soviet Armenia. The Armenian General Benevolent Union was founded in 1906 by Armenians outside Armenia for the purpose of aiding orphans of the Turkish massacres. It later broadened out and began assisting Armenians in Syria, Lebanon and other countries in Asia Minor, building schools and orphanages. Sources of known reliability in 1952 advised that this organization is known to all Armenians as a legitimate charitable organization.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE DETROIT | OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK | DATE 8/7/61 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 7/18 - 8/2/61 |
| TITLE OF CASE ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION | | REPORT MADE BY REX H. PLOEN | TYPED BY NJB |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE IS - ARMENIA | |

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to New York dated 7/11/61.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

Information furnished in this report concerning ALEX MANOOGIAN and his wife, MARIE MANOOGIAN, from previous FBI investigations is contained in their master files as follows:

CC: WFO

cc: file 11/14/61

ARJ/Jay

ALEX MANOOGIAN
Defile 100-20558
Bufile 100-383696

CC TO: 105-1790
REQ. REC'D 11-16-66
NOV 29 1966
ANS.
BY: R99

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

5 - Bureau (100-356147) (RM)

2 - New York (100-46846) (RM)

1 - Detroit (105-1790)

c/o, RAC
by n/s 8-29-61
ARJ/Jay

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

REC-6

100-356147-19

AUG 10 1961

EX 10A

NOTATIONS

WAG/AM/SEC

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------|--|
| DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT | | | |
| AGENCY | State via Liaison | 100-356147-19 | |
| REQUEST REC'D. | | | |
| DATE FWD. | 8-15-61 | | |
| HOW FWD. | R/S | | |
| BY | ARJ/Jay | | |

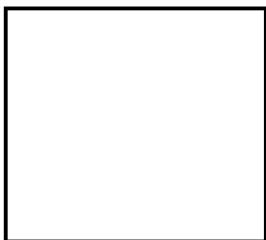
57 AUG 16 1961

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

DE 105-1790

MARIE MANOOGIAN
Defile 105-1630

The following informants were contacted during the month of July, 1961, and could furnish no information regarding the Armenian General Benevolent Union or Mr. and Mrs. ALEX MANOOGIAN:



INFORMANTS

Identity of Source

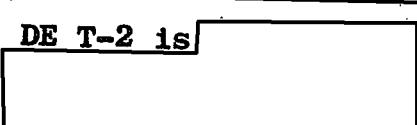
DE T-1 is



Location

100-20558-4

DE T-2 is



105-1630-9

- B* -
Cover Page

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: **REX H. PLOEN** Office: **Detroit, Michigan**
 Date: **August 7, 1961**

Field Office File No.: **105-1790** Bureau File No.: **100-356147**

Title: **ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION**

Character: **INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA**

Synopsis: **ALEX MANOOGIAN, 9240 Dwight St., Detroit, Mich., is president of Masco Screw Products Co., Dearborn, Mich. MANOOGIAN in 1953 voluntarily furnished a statement admitting membership and being president of local chapter of Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). MANOOGIAN and his wife were alleged by informant to be pro-Soviet. Background information regarding MANOOGIAN set forth. Informants negative relative to AGBU or MANOOGIANS.**

- RUC -

DETAILS: On July 28, 1961, Mrs. BARBARA KOOT, Secretary, Incorporation Section, Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission, 300 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, advised SA FRANCIS J. PRASEK that their files contain no record of registration for the captioned organization as a non-profit organization.

During the course of another investigation conducted by the FBI in November, 1951, the following information was determined concerning ALEX MANOOGIAN and the AGBU:

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DE T-1 stated on October 24, 1951, that ALEX MANOOGIAN was active in and was past President of the Ramgavar (also spelled Ramkavar) Society and was actively associated with the Armenian Benevolent Society. He considers both societies as being Communist front groups because they closely follow the Communist Party line. DE T-1 stated that for a proper understanding of his statement an explanation of the Armenian situation in the United States at the present time is as follows:

There are two active Armenian Parties, the Tashnags (also spelled Dashnags) and the Ramgavars. The two groups are strongly opposed to one another and they represent the remaining elements of the two political parties that dominated Armenia during the period of its existence as a nation. Both groups have been in existence for fifty years or more and in 1922 the Tashnak Party was in power in Armenia when Armenia lost its status as an independent nation and was taken over by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, of which Armenia has since remained a part.

DE T-1 stated that when the USSR gained control of Armenia, many of the Tashnak leaders were killed by the Soviets; therefore, the Tashnags' bitter opposition to the Soviet Government. On the other hand, the Ramgavars, DE T-1 stated, still feel friendly toward the Soviet Government since this group feels that Armenia is better off under Soviet rule than it would be as an independent nation.

DE T-1 described the Armenian Benevolent Society as an affiliate of the Ramgavar group that pays benefits to its members and provides relief to needy Armenians anywhere in the world. However, DE T-1 explained he believed that the benefits of this association went only to those persons who were pro-Soviet or for those causes that would benefit pro-Soviet groups.

DE T-1 went on to state that he believed that MANOOGIAN was too intelligent to allow his name to become associated with a known subversive group such as the Armenian Progressive League of America (APLA). He stated that to summarize MANOOGIAN's attitude toward the Communist Party

DE 105-1790

he felt that because MANOOGIAN's feelings and actions were to such a high degree pro-Soviet in nature that the only inference he could draw was that he was a Communist or was at least highly sympathetic toward the Communist cause. DE T-1 said that there was no doubt in his mind that MANOOGIAN held his allegiance to Soviet-Armenia in preference to his allegiance to the United States.

The APLA has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

DE T-1 advised in November, 1947, that MANOOGIAN's wife, MARIE MANOOGIAN, was active in the APLA but that he did not believe that ALEX MANOOGIAN was associated with the APLA.

DE T-1 was recontacted on December 22, 1953, and advised that all information concerning ALEX MANOOGIAN which he had previously furnished was second hand information and that he could not definitely state that MANOOGIAN was a member of the APLA or that he was pro-Communist.

Background data concerning ALEX MANOOGIAN was previously developed as follows:

The records of the Merchants Credit Bureau, Detroit, reflected on October 25, 1951, that after coming to the United States in 1920 ALEX MANOOGIAN worked in a Bridgeport, Connecticut, factory for two years, that later he was a salesman in a tobacco store in Providence, Rhode Island, that in 1924 he entered the Providence Screw Machine Company, Providence, Rhode Island, that he later came to Detroit, Michigan, and was employed by Brown-McLaren Screw Products Company, and that he later worked for the Packard Motor Company of Detroit. The records further reflected that he was founder of the Masco Screw Products Company, which was founded in 1928 and chartered on December 16, 1939.

The registration records of United States District Court, Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, reflected on October 24, 1951, that MANOOGIAN was born June 14, 1900. The

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Declaration of Intention Form dated June 18, 1920, reflected that MANOOGIAN was born at Ishmanian, Armenia, while the Petition for Naturalization Form dated October 22, 1925, reflected that MANOOGIAN was born in Smyrna, Turkey. The records further reflected that MANOOGIAN's last foreign address was Ishmanian, Armenia, that he emigrated from Patras, Greece, on April 12, 1920, arriving in the Port of New York aboard the S.S. President Wilson on May 3, 1920, that on June 18, 1920, in Superior Court, Fairfield County, Connecticut, he filed Declaration of Intention to become a United States citizen, that on October 22, 1925, in United States District Court, Detroit, he filed Petition for Naturalization, and that on October 1, 1926, he was granted Certificate of Naturalization Number 2371482 by United States District Court, Detroit.

During the course of another investigation conducted by the FBI in December, 1953, ALEX MANOOGIAN voluntarily appeared at the Detroit Division of the FBI on December 9, 1953, and advised that he desired to make a letter a matter of record with this office and that it was a letter which he had directed to the Central Industrial Personnel Security Board, 165 North Canal Street, Chicago, Illinois, on December 7, 1953. This letter states in part as follows:

"....I am not now, nor have I ever been either a member or associate, or an affiliate, of the American or Armenian Progressive League, or any other Communist or Communist front organizations, nor have I ever been associated or affiliated with any member of such organizations.

"Believing that your office must have some information which tends to connect me with such organizations or members thereof, I wonder if my participation as a leader in civic, patriotic or religious activities, both in this city and nationally, in the course of which I perhaps have worked with, more indirectly than directly, with members of such organizations, has not been the cause of this information. Thereof, I am outlining the highlights of my life and activities in this country covering a period of thirty-three years:

"I was born of Armenian parents in Izmir, Turkey, in 1901. At the age of 19 years, in 1920, after graduating from high school, I entered the United States at the port of

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"New York. After a short stay in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and Providence, Rhode Island, I came to Detroit. I was naturalized as a citizen of the United States in late 1926 in the Federal Court at Detroit, Michigan.

"From the first day of my entry into this country my sole purpose and aim was to work hard and save enough money to be able to bring my entire family to the United States. My parents, two sisters and two brothers are married, have their families and are good citizens.

"I was married to my wife in 1931, who was born in Izmir, Turkey, also of Armenian parents. We have two children, a daughter, 20 years of age, who is married to Mr. Arman Simone, who was born in this country. My son is 17 years old and is attending school in this city.

MRS. ARMAN SIMONE

B APPROX 1941

"By the year 1928, after having learned the trade and business of screw machine products, I organized the Masco Screw Products Co. with very little capital, which company under my management has grown to be one of the leading manufacturers in its field, with a present net worth of approximately two million dollars, and whose stock is listed on the Detroit Stock Exchange.

"The only organization in which I have either been a member or a leader during my lifetime are the following:

- (a) Armenian Church
- (b) Armenian Apostolic Society, Inc.
- (c) Armenian General Benevolent Union
- (d) Knights of Vartan, Inc.
- (e) Kiwanis Club
- (f) Masonic Fraternity (Ashlar Lodge No. 91, Consistory and Shrine)

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"Armenian General Benevolent Union - This organization is the foremost charitable Armenian association, having been organized in 1906 in Egypt, principally by the efforts of Boghos Nubar Pasha, whose father had been Prime Minister of Egypt. Its purpose was to give moral, material and educational aid to the Armenian people all over the world. Its main activities for the last thirty-five years have been the care and support of the refugees of the First and Second World Wars.

"Subsequent to 1951, 400,000 Armenians were deported and scattered throughout the world and since that time the Armenian General Benevolent Union has opened up many camps, orphanages and schools, and cared for many thousands of Armenian refugees and is still carrying on to-day by maintaining several schools, supplying clothing and milk, supporting hospitals in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Greece.

"Because of the reputation and integral character of its officers and directors, the Union from its inception inspired confidence in the Armenian people all over the world and a number of wealthy individuals established trust funds for educational and charitable purposes with the Union as a trustee, or made outside donations to the Union. To-day the Union controls over six million dollars.

"The American branch of the Armenian General Benevolent Union was incorporated many years ago and recognized by the government as a charitable and educational institution, and granted an exemption certificate by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

"I have been a member of the organization for the last fifteen years, and the president of the Local Chapter for three years. I have been a member of the Board of Directors for the last eight years. Most of the Board members are great industrialists and philanthropists.

"In my opinion, membership in the Armenian General Benevolent Union is a distinct privilege and honor for every person of Armenian extraction, and I am personally proud of my association and activities with the Union.

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"All of the above organizations in which I am a proud member are only law abiding entities. They have not, and will not, undertake, promote, or participate in any activity whatsoever that is not in the best interest of the United States. As a matter of fact, I know of no one, who is a member in good standing of any of the foregoing organizations, whom I could classify either as a Communist or a Communist sympathizer, or one who believes in the overthrow of our government by force or by any other unconstitutional means.

"In our family social circle, we do not have any friends who are members of any subversive organization, to the best of our knowledge..

"In further support of my position, I may state that as of this day sixty-five persons, who escaped from behind the Iron Curtain and were brought here as displaced persons by the United States Government, are in the employ of Masco Screw Products Co., of which I am the president and principal stockholder.

"However, having made considerable success, and taken leadership in many affairs, I have a host of friends and have possibly made some enemies. I may be labeled by some 'pro-Fascist' and 'pro-Communist' by others. People, who could evaluate me in this respect should be those with whom I have had close association in business, social, religious and civic activities.

"There is no truth in the accusation that I have ever engaged in any doubtful activity, nor is there any justification in considering me as a security risk.

"I would like to state that my wife, throughout our married life, has constantly and harmoniously co-operated with me in all the activities of the foregoing organizations, with the exception of the Masonic and Kiwanis activities. Her associations and affiliations have been exactly the same as mine, as stated."

In connection with another investigation conducted by the FBI in July, 1956, DE T-2 advised on November 25, 1955,

DE 105-1790

January 1 and 13, 1956, that MARIE MANOOGIAN recently returned from a trip to Soviet Armenia and that she has reportedly made statements which indicate that conditions in Soviet Armenia have improved under the present Communist Regime but that he has not heard her make such statements. He stated that it is currently rumored among Armenians in the Detroit area that MARIE MANOOGIAN is sympathetic to the present regime in Soviet Armenia but that none of these rumors have been verified by DE T-2. He said he believes MARIE MANOOGIAN to be pro-Soviet Armenia and pro-Russian by virtue of the fact that she was apparently allowed to travel freely in the Soviet Union and was allowed to take motion pictures during her travels.

DE T-2 further stated that he resided in Soviet Russia for over twenty years prior to 1942 and stated that he definitely knows that an individual not believed by the Russian Government to be sympathetic to the Communist Regime would never be allowed to take motion pictures freely in Soviet Russia.

DE T-2 on May 22 and 28, 1956, advised that on December 9, 1955, he attended the showing of two films taken by MARIE MANOOGIAN in Soviet Armenia. He said this affair was held at the Armenian Cultural Hall, 1345 Oakman, Detroit. He said there were approximately 300 people present, both Communist and anti-Communist.

He stated that one roll of film showed the election of the new Bishop for the Armenian Church and the other religious ceremonies which took place at that time. The other roll of film showed Sevan, the island city in Lake Sevan; Etchmiadzin, the church city of Armenia, Ervan, the capitol of Armenia as well as small towns and villages in Armenia.

He said the films were very complimentary of the economic situation in Armenia and displayed the good things about life in Armenia. He said that while the film was being shown Mrs. MANOOGIAN spoke and explained the things that were shown.

The informant stated the films were strictly Communist propaganda and none of the disadvantages of life in Armenia were

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shown. Mrs. MANOOGIAN, who frequently appeared on the film, stated "we all" can go over there, and after a pause stated "just for a visit" to see the new buildings, new houses and hotels. She said the hotels were built to last not for ten or twelve years as in the United States but for one hundred years.

The Informant advised he knew of no other occasions when the film taken by MARIE MANOOGIAN in Armenia had been displayed.

The Informant stated that the Armenians in Detroit, in general, are divided into two groups. The group which holds its meetings in the Armenian Cultural Hall are considered to be the "progressive" and "Communist" Armenians. It is this group which is pro-Soviet Armenia; whereas the other group is considered to be the anti-Soviet Armenia group, which is working to free Armenia from Soviet domination. He said that the Armenian General Benevolent Union which meets in the Armenian Cultural Hall was organized for the purpose of collecting funds to send to Armenia. He said that ALEX MANOOGIAN is the National President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union and that it is his money which keeps the Armenian Cultural Hall in a good financial condition. He said that he has heard that on one occasion ALEX MANOOGIAN criticized his wife when she took a stubborn pro-Soviet view, but generally MARIE MANOOGIAN was considered the dominate figure of the two and that she was persuasive in forcing her pro-Soviet Armenia viewpoint on her husband.

During the course of another investigation by the FBI in August, 1956, Mrs. MARIE MANOOGIAN was interviewed on August 7, 1956, by SA JOSEPH L. MERCER, II, and SA EMIL J. ROTHFUSS.

Mrs. MANOOGIAN advised that in September, 1955, she traveled to Armenia as a pilgrim to participate in the election of the Catolicos of Etchmiadzin. She stated that this trip consisted of a two week visit in Armenia and a two day visit in Moscow, Russia. While in Armenia, she stated she visited Etchmiadzin, Erevan, and other cities in Armenia where she took movies.

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She stated that during her travels in various parts of Armenia, she took a number of movies and that no one censored or prevented her from taking movies. She stated that the movies which she took in Armenia have only been shown once in this country. She stated they were shown at the Armenian Cultural Hall, 1345 Oakman, Detroit, and \$1. admission was charged. She said that her purpose in showing these movies was to raise money in order to send some packages to several destitute families whom she met in Armenia. She said that approximately 200 people attended the movie and that the money collected plus \$100 of her own money, was used to pay the very high Soviet duty which was required in order to send the packages of food and clothing to Armenia. She said the movies showed the religious ceremony which took place in Armenia during the election of the Catolicos as well as various cities and cultural centers in Armenia. She said that when she displayed the movies in Detroit she tried to make her comments regarding the things that she saw as unbiased as possible. She said she praised the things which deserved praise and criticized the things which deserved criticism.

Mrs. MANOOGIAN advised that she felt very badly about the factionalism which exists among the Armenian people today. She said that she knew that the Dashnags - Armenian Revolutionary Federation, openly referred to the church group to which she and her husband belonged and which held its services at the Armenian Cultural Hall, 1345 Oakman, Detroit, as being pro-Soviet and sympathetic with Communism. She said that the Dashnags were wrong and this was not true at all, that this group was neutral as far as Armenian politics was concerned. She stated that her church honors His Holiness the Catolicos of Etchmiadzin who sits in Armenia whereas the Dashnags have a separate church, the head of which sits in Syria.

She said the Dashnags have an impractical viewpoint in their campaign for an independent Armenia. She said that the Dashnags do not seem to realize that if Armenia was independent now, it would be at the mercy of the Turks.

After discussing the history of Armenia, she stated that she feels that Russia at the present time can be considered as a big brother to Armenia. She said that if Russia was not

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in control of Armenia that the Turks would immediately overrun the country as they have done in the past. She said she would like to see Armenia as an independent country but only if it would be able to survive. She felt that Russian control was better than no control at the present time, and Russia is the only country which is in a position to protect Armenia.

Mrs. MANOOGIAN stated that she knew of no Armenian Communist and stated that no Armenian Communist associated with her group. She stated, as the Communists were anti-religious individuals, they therefore would have nothing in common with her group, as her group was basically a religious group.

She stated that the Armenian Progressive League of America did, at one time, hold its meetings at the Armenian Cultural Hall; however, they no longer hold their meetings there and those in charge of the hall have indicated they will not let the Armenian Progressive League of America hold meetings there.

Mrs. MANOOGIAN said that the Armenian General Benevolent Union of which her husband is the International President, was organized many years ago to provide cultural, material and educational aid to Armenians all over the world. She said at the present time no aid was being given to the Armenians in Soviet Armenia as the Soviet government would not allow this. She said that following World War II. the Armenian General Benevolent Union furnished financial aid to a great many Armenians who were repatriated to Armenia from many countries all over the world.

DE-T-1 and DE-T-2 were recontacted on July 25 and 31, 1961, respectively, and both advised that they had no further knowledge or information concerning the AGBU or a Mr. and Mrs. ALEX MANOOGIAN.

Confidential informants who have some knowledge of Communist Party activities in the Detroit area were contacted during the month of July, 1961, and could furnish no information concerning the AGBU or Mr. and Mrs. ALEX MANOOGIAN.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONDetroit, Michigan
August 7, 1961

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. DE 105-1790

Title Armenian General Benevolent Union

Character Internal Security - Armenia

Reference Report of Special Agent Rex H. Ploen,
Detroit, dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) used in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - DIO, 3rd ND (RM)
1 - G-2, First Army (RM)
Copy to: 1 - 2nd OSI District (USAF) (RM)
1 - INS, NYC (RM)

Report of: JAMES E. TIERNEY Office: New York
Date: 8/21/61

File Number: 100-46846 Bureau File No. 100-356147

Title: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA

Synopsis:

ZRE I CATHOLICOS, Armenian Orthodox Church of Cilicia, Lebanon, claims that Armenian private support is being given for Communist elements in the Armenian communities of Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus. He states that the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) is steadily sending funds to its branch offices in these three Eastern countries, who in turn were supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions. The AGBU was started in 1906 in Egypt as a non-profit organization. As of October, 1959, it had approximately 150 chapters throughout the US. It was formed to aid indigent Armenians in the US and abroad. It provides aid to schools, hospitals and it gives scholarships and loans to individuals. On 1/18/55, a source advised that although the parent organization in NY, AGBU, is free of Communist taint, the subsidiary branches, which are located in most of the large cities throughout the world, are directed by Communists or Communist sympathizers. According to the source, a number of directors of the branch subsidiaries of captioned organization in Europe and the Near East are known to him to be Communists.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-P-

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JO

NY 100-46846

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| III. Results of Investigation | 8 - 12 |

NY 100-46846

DETAILS:

I. Background of Captioned Organization

It was ascertained on July 26, 1961, from a source's report dated October 19, 1959, that the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), 250-5th Avenue, New York City, formerly 295-5th Avenue, New York City, was started in 1906 in Egypt as a non profit organization. It was chartered under Delaware laws in 1908 as a membership organization.

The officers serve without compensation, with election of officers held in June every year.

It has approximately 150 chapters located throughout the United States. It was formed to aid indigent Armenians in the United States and abroad. It provides aid to schools, hospitals and it gives scholarships and loans to individuals. Its income is raised from social activities.

NY T-1

On August 3, 1961, Major E. H. WEISER, G-2, Headquarters, First Army, Governors Island, New York, made available a report dated June 26, 1957, which was prepared by the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Intelligence, Governors Island, New York, concerning the AGBU.

A review of this report reflects that the purposes of the AGBU are as follows:

"a to assist in the intellectual and moral development of the Armenian people and their homeland.

"b to assist them with a view toward ameliorating their material and economic position.

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"c to encourage any and all enterprises or publications likely to bring about this result."

Subject Organization

The report further reflected that in 1951, the Chairman of the AGBU was Mr. ARSHAG KARAGHEUSIAN, Jr., 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City, where he is a member of the firm of A and M Karagheusian, one of the largest manufacturers and importers of rugs in the United States.

NEW YORK

On April 8, 1947, the AGBU Central Board of Directors, 295 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, directed a letter to the Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, D. C. as follows:

"You are no doubt aware of the fact that the government of Soviet Armenia has permitted the Armenians scattered in the Middle and Near East and elsewhere to go to Armenia as repatriates, and about 60,000 of them were already admitted by Armenia during 1946, and we think some 70,000 or more will be admitted during 1947.

"The President of the 'Committee for the Reception and Settlement of Armenian Repatriates' in Eriwan, Mr. Astvadzatourian, has sent us the enclosed cable by which he wants our Union to ship to the Committee ten excavators which they think are extremely necessary in connection with the work of building living quarters, roads, etc., to settle the repatriates. Before doing anything in the matter, our Union would like to know if you authorize us to effect the desired shipment, and, if so, whether you will be kind enough to issue the necessary license.

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"As a matter of information, we beg to point out that the Committee in Eriwan in Charge of the reception and settlement of repatriates has sent us another cable requesting us to remit them \$800,000 to defray the marine transportation expenses of the repatriates from the different Near and Middle Eastern ports to Baroum. From there to Armenia, there will be no transportation charge. This amount need not be remitted in one lump sum, but could be remitted as and when steamers leave the different ports.

"Considering that the excavators referred to above will help to give the repatriates opportunity to get settled a moment earlier in individual homes, we hope you will be so kind as to give the matter favorable consideration.

"Thanking you in advance for whatever decision you may wish to make in the above matter, I remain,

"Yours very respectfully,
For the ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION,
Central Board of Directors,

A. Karagheusian, President"

On November 18, 1947, the AGBU Central Board of Directors directed a letter to the Secretary of State, Washington, D.C. as follows:

"In view of recent comments in certain newspapers regarding the desire of some Armenians in the United States to emigrate to Soviet Armenia, may we be permitted to advise you of our position in the matter.

NY 100-46846

"The undersigned, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, was founded in 1906, after the massacres in Turkey, by a few charitably minded Armenians. Its headquarters are in New York, and the members of its Board of Directors are American citizens. It is exclusively a charitable institution.

"The aim of the Union has always been, and still is, to relieve the sufferings of destitute Armenians scattered throughout the world. Our Union has always strictly confined itself to the humanitarian field without any affiliation whatsoever with any political association. As a matter of fact, one of the articles of our by-laws prohibits such affiliation. Our charitable activities are mostly confined to Armenia, Syria, Lebanon, Greece, Persia and other parts of the Near East. American institutions such as the Near East Foundation, The Golden Rule Foundation, and the American University of Beirut, are well aware of the ideal our Union has served, and the good it has done and is still doing, and can well testify in its favor.

"Since the Soviet Armenian government announced that it would welcome Armenian refugees from the Near East, who up to that time had lived mostly in misery and in uncertainty of the future, our Union took the initiative of raising funds in the United States, as well as in England, Canada, South America and Europe where Armenian colonies exist, in order to help defray the transportation expenses of the repatriates. Our Union hopes that the Armenians of the Near East, after so many years of precarious, unsettled existence, will be able to live in Armenia - in the land of their forefathers, the country which they can call their own, - free of any persecution.

NY 100-46846

"In this connection, may we be permitted to say that our Union did not contribute any funds for the transportation expenses of the 140-odd repatriates from the United States. Many of them had relatives in Armenia and some were born there. We believe that the cost of their repatriation was borne partly by the persons themselves, partly by Soviet Armenia.

"As the Soviet Armenian government was willing to transport the repatriates in the Near East at even less than one-third of what it would have cost us to charter steamers, we were asked, in 1946, to remit funds to Armenia towards transportation expenses. We therefore transferred to the Local Refugees Committee in Eriwan, Armenia, through the Chase National Bank:

\$300,00 in 1946.
\$400,00 in 1947.

"With the above \$400,00, over 27,000 persons have been repatriated so far this year from the Near East to Armenia.

"Recently we shipped to Armenia, upon the request of the Local Refugees Committee, four excavators (bulldozers), to be utilized in connection with the construction of homes for the repatriates. In this instance, our Central Board of Directors took the liberty of addressing to you a registered letter, dated April 8, 1947, a copy of which is herewith enclosed. This letter was sent to explain the nature of the request made by the above local committee, which we recognize is presumably a branch of the Armenian Soviet government. The fact that our above-mentioned letter was not answered,

NY 100-46846

led us to believe that there was no objection to the shipment of the excavators or to remittances to Armenia towards the transportation expenses of the repatriates, the more so as the need of a license for the export of excavators was lifted and the Chase National Bank had informed us that there were no restrictions on remittances to Soviet Armenia. We wish to state here that our books and our files are at all times at your entire disposal, and if for any further information you would like a representative of our Committee to come to the Department of State to answer any questions, we should be only too happy to comply.

"In terminating, may we assure you once again, as American citizens, of our deep loyalty to our American form of government and to our American ideals.

"Yours very respectfully,
For the ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION.
Central Board of Directors,

A. Karagheusian,
President."

II. Basis For Investigation

The Basis For Investigation is a letter directed to ARMIN H. MEYER, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington, D. C., which was dated April 5, 1961, American Embassy, Beirut, Lebanon, and signed by ROBERT MC CLINTOCK, United States Ambassador.

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S U B J E C T O R G A N I Z A T I O N

In the letter, Ambassador MC CLINTOCK states that on that date he had visited ZRE I CATHOLICOS of the Armenian Orthodox Church of Cilicia, Lebanon, and that he was advised by CATHOLICOS that the fight against the Communist influence in the church was on the whole moving reasonably well. However, CATHOLICOS protested very strongly at what he claimed was Armenian private support for Communist elements in the Armenian communities of Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. He said the AGBU, whose President is one Mr. ALEX~~X~~MANOUKIAN, Detroit, Michigan, was steadily sending funds to its branch offices in these three Eastern countries who in turn were supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions. By way of example, His Holiness said that last May at an Armenian school north of Aleppo near the Turkish frontier the Director of the School actually paraded a portrait of STALIN. CATHOLICOS added that there is a group of dissident Armenian priests in Lebanon who are "sheltered" by the AGBU. He expressed fear as to an increasing Communist ascendancy in the Armenian community on Cyprus which likewise, he says, receives monetary support from the AGBU.

III. Results of Investigation

On November 17, 18 and 20, 1952, a source advised that the AGBU was a fraud and was engaged in subversive activities. The source indicated that a scandal existed among the Armenian Colony in that numerous older wealthy Armenians had been influenced by the AGBU to change their wills, leaving the money to the AGBU and cutting off surviving children penniless.

NY 100-46846

Concerning the finances of the AGBU, the sources indicated that at one time branches of the AGBU had money in all the major banks of Europe, chiefly the Banque Vandoise in Luzerne, Switzerland. The source also stated that it had been ascertained from what was considered a reliable source that all the money had been "smuggled" into the United States and that the AGBU had approximately \$8,000,000.00 in its account.

The source advised that the AGBU was engaged in espionage but had nothing specific on which to base this statement except that the AGBU transmitted funds to Soviet Armenia for the support of schools and orphanages and had no positive knowledge of the ultimate use of the funds.

It was stated by the same source that the AGBU in 1946 assisted in the collection of funds for the repatriation of Armenians to Soviet Armenia and that in the bulletin of the AGBU there were numerous "ads" which offered congratulations to those returning and expressing confidence that one million dollars could be raised to assist the repatriates.

The source questioned the loyalty to the United States of a number of AGBU members but had nothing specific on which to base an opinion in this regard.

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NY T-2

An anonymous letter dated July 1, 1953, to the FBI contained references to the AGBU. It indicated that ARSHAG KARAGHEUSIAN had retired from the AGBU and that his duties had been taken over by his son CHARLES KARAGHEUSIAN. It also stated that KARAGHEUSIAN had still "picks the contacts which gets money and goods to Soviet Armenia and stated this was over and above what was sent with permission of the State Department.

This anonymous communication mentioned Mrs. HAGOP (JEANNE) ANDONIAN, a naturalized citizen of Armenian origin, as one of the contacts and indicated that she was presently out of the United States and that her itinerary includes Egypt, Turkey, France and Switzerland. It stated that her trip was allegedly to give a series of lectures.

FRANCE

The letter also indicated that JEANNE ANDONIAN when in Paris stayed at the home of LYDIA KARINE, a Russian Armenian, 73 Fanbourg Poissonniere, and that LYDIA KARINE's father, ESHKALAKIAN, was a Communist who was active in the AGBU.

KARIN

U.S.A.

NY 100-46846

On December 23, 1952, a businessman formerly connected with an Armenian newspaper and generally familiar with Armenian affairs, advised that the AGBU was founded in 1906 as a long range charitable and educational organization which would assist the victims of Turkish massacres and the destitute Armenians in Syria and Lebanon. The source advised that he was associated with the AGBU from 1946 to 1951 and added that the AGBU is non-political but has been subject to pressure from all political parties because of the fact that it has an operating fund of \$6,000,000. The AGBU is very conservative in its action and most of its supporters and contributors are wealthy businessmen. The source stated that almost no money was sent by the AGBU for use in Soviet Armenia prior to the end of World War II because the Soviet Government would not allow supervision by AGBU representatives over the spending of money. After the end of World War II, a "soft period" in international relations occurred and the Soviet Government allowed an AGBU representative named KARAGEUSIAN to supervise the spending of money for rural schools and health stations in Soviet Armenia. In 1948, KARAGEUSIAN ceased sending reports to the AGBU and attempts to contact him were fruitless and no information could be found as to what had happened to him. The Soviet Government at this time refused to allow any AGBU representatives to visit Soviet Armenia and the AGBU has not sent funds to Soviet Armenia since that time. The AGBU has never had a branch in Soviet Armenia but most of the funds were spent helping Armenians in Turkey, Syria and Lebanon.

NY T-3

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NY 100-46846

On April 29, 1953, Mrs. DICKRAN M. SARKISIAN, Vice President of the AGBU during World War II, advised that the AGBU was not and had never been Communist dominated or controlled and that it had never followed the CP line. She also stated that she was active in the AGBU and that it was a cultural and philanthropic organization engaged in helping needy Armenian people.

She stated that she is not and has never been a Communist or Communist sympathizer and that this holds true for her deceased husband, who was active in AGBU activities before his death. She advised that during World War II, while the Soviets were our allies, representatives of the USSR contacted the AGBU frequently concerning Armenian matters and that while she was Vice President of the AGBU, she recalled attending a luncheon sponsored by the AGBU in honor of a Russian representative whose name she does not recall. She pointed out that during World War II, her deceased husband contributed \$100 to Russian relief, not because he was in sympathy with communism, but because he was a humanitarian interested in depressed people regardless of their nationalities or political beliefs.

On January 18, 1955, a source reported that the captioned organization, with headquarters at 295 5th Avenue, New York, New York, is possibly engaged in activities which may be inimical to the best interest of the United States. This source related

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NY 100-46846

that the captioned organization is a philanthropic Armenian society which distributes funds throughout the world for needy Armenian causes. Reportedly, most of these funds are contributed by wealthy American Armenians. Although the parent organization in New York is free of Communist taint, the subsidiary branches, which are located in most of the large cities throughout the world, are directed by Communists or Communist sympathizers. According to the source, a number of directors of the branch societies of captioned organization, in Europe and the Near East are known to him to be Communists. The source declared that many influential Armenians in Europe resented United States funds being used by Armenians in Europe and the Near East for Communist purposes.

NY T-4

Sources generally familiar with Communist activities in the New York area were contacted during July and August, 1961 concerning the AGBU and they advised they were not acquainted with any of the activities of the AGBU.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NY 100-46846

New York, New York

August 21, 1961

Title Armenian General Benevolent Union

Character Internal Security - Armenia

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent James E. Tierney, dated and captioned as above, at New York.

All sources (except any listed below) used in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

NY T-2, with whom insufficient contact has been made to establish her reliability.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK | OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK | DATE 8/21/61 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 7/10/61 - 8/8/61 |
| TITLE OF CASE <u>ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION</u> | | REPORT MADE BY JAMES E. TIERNEY | TYPED BY bjb |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA | |

XXXXXX

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter dated 7/11/61.

-P-

Photo

| |
|---------------------------|
| CC TO: <u>AIA</u> |
| REQ. REC'D 11-16-61 |
| 11-V-29-63 |
| ANS. |
| BY: <u>K99</u> <u>img</u> |

ADMINISTRATIVE:

*cc: WFO
by ltr 11/16/61
AK/Jay*

A copy of this report has been disseminated to INS because of their possible future interest in this matter and to intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces for information.

This report has been classified "Confidential" since data reported from NY T-3 could reasonably result in the identity of the informant of continuing value, impair the future effectiveness thereof, and such impairment could have an adverse effect on the national security of the country. *Cs*

APPROVED

JPA SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

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- 1 - 2nd OSI District (USAF) (RM)
- 1 - INS, NYC (RM)
- 3 - New York (100-46846)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| <i>100-356147-20</i> | <i>REC- 87</i> |
| <i>19 AUG 22 1961</i> | <i>EX-112</i> |

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Agency | State via Liaison | NY 100-46846 |
| Request Recd. | CIA, RAO | NYC 54 |
| Date Fwd. | 8-30-61 | |
| How Fwd. | RIS | |
| By | ARI/laus | |

Notations

MAIL AND SEC

NY 100-46846

The facts forming the basis for this investigation were discussed with Mrs. ZABELLE SEROPIAN, Translator, NYO, who is well acquainted with activities of Armenians, in general, in this country and throughout the world.

Mrs. SEROPIAN stated it was her opinion that His Holiness ZRE I CATHOLICOS of the Armenian Orthodox Church of Cilicia, Lebanon, had not exaggerated the charge he made as set forth in the basis for investigation.

She suggested that the following individuals, all of whom are reliable, should be able to supply pertinent information concerning the AGBU and whether or not His Holiness's charges are exaggerated:

HAGOP KASHMANIAN
70-11 Groton Street
Forest Hills, New York
BO 8-4348

Mr. FNU AFARIAN
Armenian Prelacy
411 East 51st Street
New York City
MU 8-0821

FOIA b 7 - D

Records of G-2, First Army, DIO 3rd ND, INS and 2nd OSI District, contained no information considered pertinent to this investigation, other than the information contributed to G-2 in the details.

Several attempts were made to contact NY T-2 to see if she still desired to be kept confidential, unsuccessfully. If she is recontacted she will be asked if she still desires to remain confidential.

Instant report is classified confidential because unauthorized disclosure of the information reported herein by NY T-4 might impair the future effectiveness of the informant and such impairment could have an adverse effect upon the national defense of the country.

- B -
COVER PAGE

NY 100-46846

LEADS:

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

1. Will interview HAGOP KASHMANIAN, 70-11 Groton Street, Forest Hills, New York, [redacted] and FNU AFARIAN, Armenian Prelacy, 411 East 51st Street, New York City.

2. Will consider interviewing CHARLES DIKRAN KELEKIAN, 19 East 80th Street, New York City, who, by letter dated August 26, 1957, directed a letter to the "Honorable Harrington, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington, D.C.," in which he stated the AGBU is a tax evading, subversive entity engaging in an minimum of work it alleges to be doing, in order to remain in existence. It indulges in and has indulged in what it specifically states in its Charter it is not doing.

KELEKIAN set forth in the letter information to support the above allegations.

3. Will consider recontacting NY T-2 for any information she may have re the AGBU.

4. Will recontact [redacted] for any pertinent information he may have concerning the AGBU.

- C -
COVER PAGE

NY 100-46846

INFORMANTS:

Identity
of Source

File No.
Where
Located

NY T-1

[REDACTED] Instant report, page 2

NY T-2

Mr. BEATRICE ALTMAYER
RODNEY KELEKIAN
19 East 80th Street
New York City
(By Request)

Instant report, pages 8-9

NY T-3

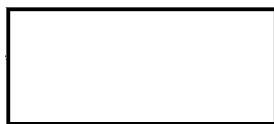
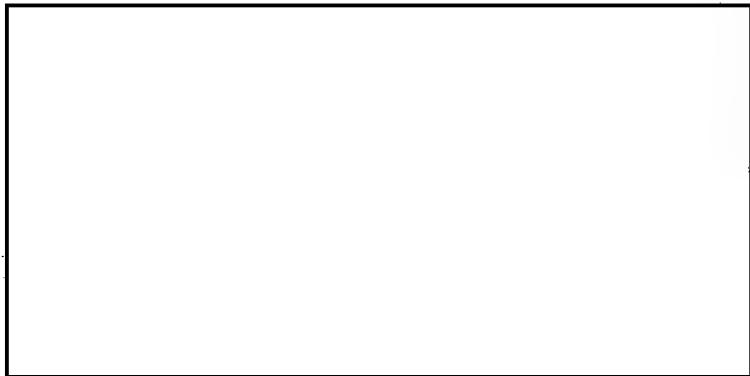
[REDACTED] Instant report, page 10

NY T-4

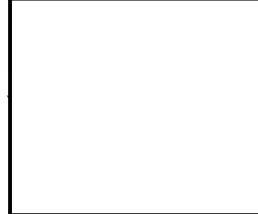
[REDACTED] Instant report, pages 11-12

Careful consideration has been given to the sources concealed and T symbols were utilized in the report only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

The informants who were contacted negatively concerning the AGBU are:



NY 694-S*



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK | OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK | DATE 10/31/61 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/14, 10/11, 16/61 |
| TITLE OF CASE <u>ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION</u> | | REPORT MADE BY JAMES E. TIERNEY | TYPED BY tb |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE IS-ARMENIA | |

XXXXXXXXX

REFERENCE:

Report of SA JAMES E. TIERNEY dated 8/21/61,
at NY.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

A copy of this report has been disseminated to INS because of their possible future interest in this matter and to intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces for information.

CC TO: *BIA*
REQ. REC'D *11-16-66*
11-9-66
ANS.
BY: *K99 eny*

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JW
SPECIAL AGENT
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REC- 36

EX-105

100-356147-21

22 NOV 1961

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| Date Fwd. | <i>11-9-61</i> | |
| How Fwd. | <i>R/S</i> | <i>66 NOV 17 1961</i> |
| By | <i>ART/ny</i> | |

Notations

NAT SEC

NY 100-46846

This report has been classified "Confidential" since data reported from NY T-2 could reasonably result in the identity of the informant of continuing value, impair the future effectiveness thereof, and such impairment could have an adverse effect on the national security of the country.

INFORMANTS

Identity
of Source

NY T-1



File No.
where
located

Instant report,
pages 3 - 6

NY T-2



Instant report,
pages 6 - 7

Careful consideration has been given to the sources concealed and T symbols were utilized in the report only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

LEADS

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

1. Will interview HAGOP KASHMANIAN, 70-11 Groton Street, Forest Hills, NY, and FNU AFARIAN, Armenian Prelacy, 411 East 51st Street, NYC.

- B -
COVER PAGE

NY 100-46846

2. Will consider interviewing CHARLES DIKIAN KELEKIAN, 19 East 80th Street, NYC, who, by letter dated 8/26/57, directed a letter to the "Honorable Harrington, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington, D. C." in which he stated the AGBU is a tax evading, subversive entity engaging in a minimum of work it alleges to be doing, in order to remain in existence. It indulges in and has indulged in what it specifically states in its charter it is not doing.

KELEKIAN set forth in the letter information to support the above allegations.

3. Will consider recontacting Mrs. BEATRICE ALTMAYER RODNEY KELEKIAN, 19 East 80th Street, NYC. She is NY T-2 in the report of SA JAMES E. TIERNEY dated 8/21/61, entitled "ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION, IS-ARMENIA". (NY T-2 by request)

- C* -

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to: 1-DIO, 3rd Naval District (RM)
1-G-2, First Army (RM)
1-2nd OSI District (USAF) (RM)
1-INS, NYC (RM)

Report of: JAMES E. TIERNEY
Date: 10/31/61

Office: New York, New York
Bureau File No.: 100-356147

Field Office File No.: 100-46846

Title: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY-ARMENIA

Synopsis: A source advised that a majority of the members of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) including its Board of Directors are naive, honest anti-Communists. However amongst the ruling body there are individuals with access to its funds who are pro-Communists, though not ideologically, because they feel that inasmuch as Armenia gained its independence through Russia, Armenia must be Pro-Soviet and pro-Communist. That inasmuch as Armenia is under Russia's dominance there is no other way for Armenia to survive. Therefore, through these individuals the AGBU provides funds for educational institutions in Armenia. That these individuals who have left themselves open to Soviet propaganda have made available funds to Communist inspired schools and religious institutions in the Middle East because they feel this will cause Russia to look favorably toward Armenia. Another source advised that he is a member of the Central Committee, AGBU and that the AGBU is a politically "quite conservative organization", 100 percent pro-American.

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NY 100-46846

SYNOPSIS CONT'D

That allegations against the AGBU are made chiefly by the Dashnaks: 1. Because before Communism became an issue amongst Armenians, the Dashnaks wanted funds for their institutions which the AGBU refused to give because they would be supporting a partisan group. 2. The Socialistic Dashnaks finding Communists hard to "get along with" before World War II became anti-Communists but because of their ideology still attacked the AGBU because it is composed of conservative wealthy individuals. This source stated that he knows of no schools or institutions which are Communist controlled to which the AGBU gives funds in the Middle East. That if the AGBU did funds would be withheld but that the AGBU would not withhold funds because the Dashnaks claimed a school or institution is pro-Communist. That the Catholicos in Armenia cannot Communize the Church as the Dashnaks claim and that the Catholicos of Cilicia might not have been elected without the aid of the Dashnaks and hence he is beholden to the Dashnaks.

- P -

- 1a -

NY 100-46846

DETAILS:

On September 14, 1961, at the New York County Clerk's Office, Supreme Court Building, New York City, SA JAMES E. TIERNEY reviewed a Certificate of Incorporation for the Armenian General Benevolent Union American Unit, Incorporated, which was incorporated on August 5, 1930. This review reflected:

1. That the name of the proposed corporation is as above.

2. The purposes for which it is to be formed are:

a. To appeal for and receive in the State of New York and elsewhere, voluntary contributions, gifts, bequests and devises of money or property, outright or in trust or otherwise and to carry out the purposes of any such gift, bequest or devise;

b. To apply such money or property or the income thereof, for the relief, uplift and general welfare of the poor and needy Armenians and others in the State of New York, in the United States generally, in Armenia, in the Near East, and in such other places or countries where the same may appear necessary;

c. To assist in the intellectual and moral development of the Armenian population in Armenia and elsewhere and to assist Armenians anywhere to ameliorate their material and economic position;

NY 100-46846

d. To encourage any works or publication likely to further any of the foregoing purposes;

e. To act as the American Unit for the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) with present headquarters in Paris, France, and to make any application use and distribution of money or property to any of the foregoing purposes through said union, except as may be otherwise arranged with said union, or as otherwise provided by the donor of funds;

f. To do all lawful things necessary or incidental to these purposes.

3. The territory in which its operations are principally to be conducted is the United States of America, Armenia and the Near East.

4. Its office is to be located in the Borough of Manhattan, in the City, County and State of New York.

It was noted that contained in the file of the Certificate of Incorporation there appeared a Certificate of Dissolution of the AGBU, American Unit, Incorporated, which was filed October 6, 1936, with the Department of State, State of New York.

On October 11, 1961, a source advised that the AGBU was formed in approximately 1905, Cairo, Egypt, as a charitable organization to aid poor Armenians, and Armenian educational institutions and hospitals.

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That some time in the 1930's its parent organization was transferred to Paris, France, and sometime before or after World War II the parent organization was moved to the United States because it was felt that funds in their possession and at their disposal for the above purposes were "safer" if maintained in a free country such as the United States.

The source stated that a majority of the members associated with AGBU including those in its Board of Directors are naive, honest, anti-Communists, loyal to America whose only desire and purpose is to provide funds to the above mentioned poor and educational institutions and hospitals.

The source advised that however amongst the ruling body of the parent AGBU there are individuals who have access to funds of the AGBU, who are in their sympathies pro-Communist, though they do not ideologically believe in Communism.

That these individuals have developed such sympathies because they feel that inasmuch as Armenia gained its independence through the assistance of the Russians it, Armenia today, must be pro-Soviet and Pro-Communists in its way of life in Armenia.

That inasmuch as Armenia is not really independent but under the dominance of Russia there is no other way for Armenia to survive and have its way of life unless Armenia remains Pro-Soviet.

NY 100-46846

The source said as a result through these individuals the AGBU has provided funds for educational institutions in Armenia and for the establishment of printing plants there. The source advised further that these individuals, because of their feelings and sympathies for the Armenian people and their "adoption" of Pro-Communist sympathies have left themselves open to Soviet propaganda and thus are easily effected by it.

That this has caused them to make available funds to Communist inspired schools and religious institutions in Lebanon and other Armenian localities in the Middle East, because they feel that providing these funds will aid Armenia inasmuch as Armenia is actually under the dominance of Russia and such action will cause Russia to look favorably toward Armenia.

This source advised that most often funds so allocated reach Communist inspired schools and religious institutions which are not from outside appearances Pro-Communist and thus many of the members of the AGBU who are naive politically are not aware of the Pro-Communist nature of the recipient of the funds.

This source stated that an example of the naivete-
ness of an AGBU member can be seen in ARSHAG KARAGHEUSIAN.
The source described KARAGHEUSIAN as a very wealthy
retired Armenian rug dealer in New York City who he believes
is now President Emeritus of the AGBU.

A source stated that KARAGHEUSIAN has been active in the AGBU for many years and has contributed large amounts of money to its charitable fund. The source said that KARAGHEUSIAN and his entire family are "red blooded Americans" who are strongly anti-Communist.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

NY 100-46846

The source advised, however, that the entire family are "naive politically" and that it is his firm conviction they are unaware of funds from the AGBU being contributed to Communist inspired schools and religious institutions.

This source advised that as a member of the Dashnak Party, an anti-Communist party which is located in different parts of the world outside of Armenia, he cannot accept the point of view of some of the ruling body of the AGBU but believes that although it will be a long struggle, Armenia should fight for its true independence from Russia and should not in any way allocate funds for any Armenian schools or institutions that are in any way pro-Communist inasmuch as this only prevents Armenia from obtaining this true independence.

This source stated that because of the Dashnaks point of view none of the members of the Dashnak Party are associated with the AGBU.

NY T-1

On October 16, 1961, a source advised that [redacted]

[redacted] He stated that the AGBU is a politically "quite conservative organization", 100 per cent pro-American. He said that the Central Committee, whose jurisdiction is limited only to the United States, consists approximately of nine to eleven individuals all of whom he believes to be thoroughly loyal to America. He said that allegations against the AGBU, which is the richest organization of its kind because of its many endowments, are made chiefly by the Dashnak Party. He said that the Dashnaks make these allegations:

NY 100-46846

1. Because before Communism became an issue amongst Armenians, the Dashnaks desired funds for their projects and institutions which the AGBU refused to give because they would be supporting a partisan group.

2. The Socialistic Dashnaks finding Communists hard to "get along with" before World War II became anti-Communist, but because of their ideology, still attacked the AGBU because it is composed of conservative wealthy individuals.

This source stated that he knows of no schools or institutions which are Communist controlled to which the AGBU gives funds in the Middle East. That if the AGBU did, funds would be withheld but that the AGBU would not withhold funds because the Dashnaks claimed that a school or institution is pro-Communist. That the Catholicos of the Church in Armenia, who has jurisdiction over all Armenians, could not Communize the Church as the Dashnaks claim because people outside Armenia would not stand for it and because its leaders are dedicated churchmen whom the Russians respect because of this dedication. That the Catholicos of Cilicia in Lebanon, who has limited jurisdiction over Syria, Lebanon, and the Island of Crete, might not have been elected without the aid of the Dashnaks and hence he is beholden to the Dashnaks.

NY T-2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New York, New York
October 31, 1961

Bureau 100-356147
New York 100-46846

Title Armenian General Benevolent Union

Character Internal Security-Armenia

Reference Report of Special Agent James E. Tierney, dated and captioned as above, at New York.

All sources (except any listed below) used in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

I - A. R. Jones

SAC, WFO

11/17/61

Director, FBI (100-356147)

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
IS - ARMENIA

Enclosed for WFO and New York is one copy each of a State Department memorandum dated 10/27/61 which was furnished to Bureau Liaison Agent by State. State Department indicated that Mr. Mark Keshichian, 30 C Street, S. E., Washington, D. C., desired to be interviewed regarding captioned matter by an FBI Agent. Bufiles contain no information which would preclude this interview. WFO should check its files concerning Keshichian and providing its files do not contain any information which would preclude the interview, it should be conducted and results thereof furnished to Bureau in a report suitable for dissemination.

For the information of WFO, one copy each of the reports of SA's Rex H. Ploen dated 8/7/61 at Detroit and James E. Tierney dated 8/21/61 at New York is enclosed.

Enclosures (3)

I - New York (100-46846) (Enclosure)

ARJ:akg/leg
(5)

REC-34

NOV 16 1961

MURKIN
NOV 16 1961
COM-A-R-FBI

NOTE:

State Department communication furnished Bureau by liaison on 7/3/61 indicates that an Armenian church official in Cilicia (Turkey) expressed concern at what he claimed was American private support for communist elements at the Armenian communities of Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. He indicates that the Armenian General Benevolent Union was sending funds to branch offices in these three Near Eastern countries who in turn were supporting communist-inspired schools and religious institutions.

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NOTE CONTINUED PAGE 2

ENCLOSURE

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**Letter to SAC, WFO
Re: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
(100-356147)**

NOTE: (Continued)

Bureau conducted an investigation of this organization in 1952 based on allegation that it was engaged in subversive activities. Our investigation revealed that this organization is known to all Armenians as a legitimate, charitable organization. We instructed New York to reopen its investigation to determine present activities of this organization.

Instant State Department communication indicates that Mr. Keshichian is of the opinion that funds of the organization are supporting communist-inspired schools and religious institutions abroad, and he indicated that he had information concerning this which he desired to give to an FBI Agent.

~~DEPARTMENT OF STATE~~

(Drafting Office and Office)

11/8/61

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

~~SAC - M. H. Nease~~

BRYAN to

~~BAGGETT~~
~~OR~~

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: October 27, 1961

SUBJECT: Creation of American Committees Vene & Regarding Activities
of the American Central Revolutionary Union (ACRU)

PARTICIPANTS:

Mr. Frank Baldwin (Stock Brokerage and Co., Inc.,
500 9 Street, S.W., Washington 2, D.C.)
c/o - Ambassador Robert McLaughlin
W.M./MS - William R. Woodward, Jr.

COPIES TO:

DEA - 2
FBI - 2
DEA - Dr. Baldwin - 1

Administrator BREWER - 1
FBI - Mr. GORDON - 2
FBI - Mr. GOODMAN - 1

Reed
11/8/61
Mr. K. may be available
Date to talk to 11/15
O/H/B

Mr. Baldwin said he is a personal friend of Fred J. American Chairman of Ciliots et Fils, Inc., Boston. He stated that he had received a personal letter dated October 10 from His Holiness asking that he get in touch with Ambassador McLaughlin. The letter from His Holiness recalls the concern expressed to the Ambassador in the spring of 1961 regarding the activities of an American Amurian group, the American Central Revolutionary Union. In the view of His Holiness, expressed at the time, funds collected by this group are used abroad for activities that benefit Amurian groups loyal to the Soviet Union. At the time of his meeting with Ambassador McLaughlin, the letter had predicted that an inquiry would be made into the activities of the American Central Revolutionary Union. His Holiness was also concerned about the group's connection and its interest in the current status of the inquiry presented by Ambassador McLaughlin.

Mr. Baldwin said he is aware that the FBI has recently been making inquiries among the Amurian community in the United States regarding the ACRU. He is presently convinced that the fears of the Ciliots are well founded. The ACRU has assets with an aggregate value of about \$15 million. The income from these, plus additional funds raised through charitable drives, is continuing. While the contributors to the ACRU may be well-intentioned, there are at least three members of the ACRU's executive committee who have pro-Soviet sympathies and who control the expenditure of ACRU funds in a manner that serves Communist interests. Mr. Baldwin said he would be happy to repeat his information about ACRU activities to the FBI. Nashville, he wished

Let to SAC, wFO
11/17/61 w/enc
ART/ak 1-NY w/enc ENCLOSURE

~~RECORDED~~

22
J. B. [Signature]

GPO 865971

- 2 -

Ambassador McClinton's comments on the nature of the reply to attach note
to the exhibition.

Ambassador McClinton requested that at the time of his meeting with the
Cochrane de Rudder he has shown the Ambassador that there is a bank for
United States Government account in Philadelphia funds collected in the
United States are regularly or immediately used to cover disbursements on
that account. No particular reference to which Mr. McClinton had referred can be given
as chairman of this committee. His assurance can be assumed that when a thorough
inquiry has been completed appropriate action will be exercised if the
Rudders' funds are found out by the facts.

Approved in draft: Ambassador McClintock

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Division

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attention <i>Yates</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Return to <i>Johns 629 R.B.</i> |
| | Supervisor Room Ext. |

Type of References Requested:

- Regular Request (Analytical Search)
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
 Subversive References Only
 Nonsubversive References Only
 Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

- Restricted to Locality of _____
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
 Buildup Variations

Subject *mark Keshishian*

Birthdate & Place _____

Address _____

Localities _____

R# _____ Date *1/14* Searcher Initials *J.P.*

Prod. _____

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

*WR**mark Keshishian*
*ND 40-84592-2p3**marcos Keshishian*
SI

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Search

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Subject *Marks Revolutionary tendencies*

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FILE NUMBER *111* SERIAL *111**vars**111*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, HOUSTON (105-857)(P)

DATE: 11/29/61

SUBJECT: CHANGED
 ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
OF AMERICA, INC.
IS-R
(OO: HOUSTON)

FD-317

(mbo)
Title is marked changed to reflect name of organization about which T-1 was furnishing information, exact name of which was not previously known. Title previously carried as "UNSUBS, Armenian Nationality Group, Houston, Texas".

T-1 (Mrs. MAMIE DE LA TORRE, 26 Dolphin Street, Houston, Texas, telephone HO 5-1098, employed as office manager Persian Rug Co., 3703 Travis, Houston, --requested identity concealed. She stated on 11/9/61, that she is employed by an Armenian named Mr. HRANT C. BARDOONY, who operates Persian Rug Co.) advised on 11/9/61, that certain suspicions had formed in T-1's mind regarding captioned organization. T-1 stated it was T-1's opinion that there may be some "Russian spies" among the membership of this organization. T-1 based this opinion upon having overheard the conversations of several alleged members of the organization who reside in the Houston area.

T-1 said it was his understanding that one LEON HARRISON, a former resident of Brookshire, Texas, and also a former resident of the Auditorium Hotel, Houston, is an Armenian and a "spy" for Russia.

- 1 - D
 2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - New York (RM)
2 - Houston

KBJ:sbc
(6)

REC-3
MCI-17

100-356147-23

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NAT HANSON
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HO 105-857

T-1 identified another in this category as IVAN D. MAMARCHEV, 1127 Woodhill, telephone UN 4-7212. T-1 said this person is an engineer, a Bulgarian, having an office located at 3900 South Main, Houston, Tex 75 in a building belonging to a Mr. ZUBER.

T-1 gave the impression that much of T-1's basis for considering these persons as Russian "spies" were alleged statements on their part wherein they indicated they felt that the area formerly known as Armenia is better off under its present Russian control than it had been previously.

T-1 advised on 11/21/61, there is scheduled to be a meeting of captioned organization in New York City on 12/2/61, that Mr. HRANT C. BARDOONY, operator of Persian Rug Co., 3703 Travis, Houston, plans to attend the meeting, which is apparently to be some sort of convention of representatives of the organization from all over the United States. T-1 said this organization publishes a newsletter from time to time known as HOOSHARAR.

Texas
Houston indices are negative on all persons mentioned herein, as well as the organization and the newsletter, except for BARDOONY. No pertinent information appears re BARDOONY. It is not known if the suspicions of T-1 are the figments of imagination of a neurotic person, as T-1 appears possibly to be.

New York is requested to advise Houston if there is an active investigation being conducted regarding captioned organization or if it is known if the organization is heavily infiltrated with communists. If additional information is desired as to persons attend-

HO 105-857

ing the 12/2/61, meeting of the organization in New York City; this information may become available to T-1 in the future. T-1 was of the opinion the organization may be headquartered in New York City.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

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| | Supervisor Room Ext. |

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 - Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested

- Restricted to Locality of _____
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
 Buildup Variations

Subject Leon Harrison

Birthdate & Place

Address

Localities Tent

R# _____ Date 12/2 Searcher JR
Initials _____

Prod. —

| | FILE NUMBER | SERIAL |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------|
| N | 147-3161 | |
| N | 147-963 | |
| N | 25-333601 | |
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| Code 12/8 | 17-26297 | ✓ |
| N | 100-3-14-2913 p62, 79; | |
| N | 100-26844-930 p17; | |
| N | 100-367710-1 | |
| Microfilm | 26-143379-6. | |
| N | 61-7341-9-560 p1, 433 p18; | |

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

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Type of References Requested

- Regular Request (Analytical Search)
 - All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
 - Subversive References Only
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 - Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

- Restricted to Locality of _____
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
 Buildup Variations

Subject Ivan D. Mamarchev

Birthdate & Place

Address

Localities

Tent

Searcher

3. Initials

Prod.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-356147)

DATE: 12/20/61

FROM : SAC, WFO (105-45174) (P)

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
IS - ARMENIA

ReBulet to WFO dated 11/17/61, advising that the Department of State indicated that Mr. MARK KESHICHIAN, 30 O Street, S. E., Washington, D. C., desired to be interviewed regarding captioned matter by an FBI Agent.

On 12/15/61, Mr. MARK KESHISHIAN, 30 O Street, S. E., Washington, D. C., contacted SA HOWARD FLETCHER, JR. by request. Mr. KESHISHIAN advised that he was desirous of furnishing the information regarding captioned matter to the FBI. He stated, however, that he would like very much to postpone the interview for one or two weeks. He advised that he would call SA FLETCHER to arrange a time for the interview.

2 Bureau
1-New York (100-46846) (Info) (RM)
1-WFO

HF:sro
(4)

REC-33

EX-105

100-356147-24

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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| REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK | OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK | DATE 12/29/61 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 12/1 - 18/61 |
| TITLE OF CASE ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION | | REPORT MADE BY JAMES E. TIERNEY | TYPED BY amb |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE IS - ARMENIA | |

~~XXXXXX~~

REFERENCE:

Report of SA JAMES E. TIERNEY dated 10/31/61
at NY.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

A copy of this report has been disseminated to INS because of their possible future interest in this matter and to intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces for information.

CC TO: *DOA*
REQ. REC'D *11-16-61*
NOV 29 1961
ANS.
BY: *109* *ansy*

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

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1-G-2, First Army (RM)
1-2nd OSI District (USAF) (RM)
1-INS, NYC (RM)
3-New York (100-46846)

100-356147-25

REC-72

5 JAN 2 1962

| Dissemination Record of Attached Report | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|--|
| Agency | <i>RAO, CIA</i> | | |
| Request Recd. | <i>State by liaison</i> | | |
| Date Fwd. | <i>1-10-62</i> | | |
| How Fwd. | <i>R/S</i> | | |
| By | <i>APJ/jav</i> | | |

Notations

NAT. SECURITY

62 JAN 11 1962

NY 100-46846

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source

NY T-1

FOIA b 7 - D

File No. Where Located

Instant report, page 5,6

Careful consideration has been given to the source concealed and a T-symbol was utilized in this report only in that instance where the identity of the source must be concealed.

LEADS

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

1. Will consider interviewing CHARLES DIKAN KELEKIAN, 19 East 80th Street, NYC, who, by letter dated 8/26/57, directed a letter to the "Honorable Harrington, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington, D.C." in which he stated the AGBU is a tax evading, subversive entity engaging in a minimum of work it alleges to be doing, in order to remain in existence. It indulges in and has indulged in what it specifically states in its charter it is not doing.

KELEKIAN set forth in the letter information to support the above allegations.

2. Will consider recontacting Mrs. BEATRICE ALTMAYER RODNEY KELEKIAN, 19 East 80th Street, NYC.

She is NY T-2 in the report of SA JAMES E. TIERNEY dated 8/21/61, entitled "ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION, IS-ARMENIA". (NY T-2 by request)

COVER PAGE

NY 100-46846

3. Will interview YERVANT MAVIAN, Lafayette
Photo Engraving Corporation, 107 Grand Street, NYC, and
VAHRAM DERDERIAN, Trocadero Catering Corporation, 150
Claremont Avenue, NYC.

COVER PAGE

- C* -

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1-DIO, 3rd Naval District (RM)
1-G-2, First Army (RM)
1-2nd OSI District (USAF) (RM)
1-INS, NYC (RM)

Report of: JAMES E. TIERNEY

Date: 12/29/61 Office: New York, New York

File No.: 100-46846 Bufile: 100-356147

Title: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA

Synopsis: A Dashnak Party member states that "politically minded" people have "their way" in the AGBU's higher echelon who are not very dependable in their "social political behavement" in that they follow the "Communist Party line". He said one of the reasons for their actions is possibly that it will be harmful to the Dashnak Party. That some of the Directors of their branches are pro-Communist in that they will not disburse funds to Dashnak schools and institutions but will to schools and institutions that teach the present regime in Armenia is the "best way of life" in Armenia. Another member of the Dashnak Party says that individuals within the AGBU are "not anti-Communist in their feelings although they may not be pro-Communist". That they may think it is for the well being of people in Armenia for them to so act. That they also so act because being anti-Dashnak "pleases them". He said the AGBU will not contribute to any anti-Communist school in Lebanon but they have con-

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

NY 100-46846

SYNOPSIS CONTINUED

tributed to schools and institutions that are pro-Communist. A source says the AGBU refuses funds to Dashnak schools because they indoctrinate their pupils in their political beliefs. He said he believes the Dashnaks "blackmail" the AGBU when they say AGBU funds are given to Communist inspired schools and institutions and that he believes that allegations made by the Catholicos in Lebanon are being made because the Catholicos was elected by the Dashnaks.

- P -

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NY 100-46846

DETAILS:

On December 6, 1961, HAGOP KASHMANJIAN, ~~70-11 Groton Street, Forest Hills, New York~~, a retired general broker in insurance, advised that he is a member of the anti-Communist Dashnak Party and that he is not a member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). ~~APMENVA~~

He stated that the AGBU is an organization founded by rich and "very" conservative Armenians in Egypt many years ago and that these wealthy individuals are the driving, organizing, responsible force behind the activities of the Union.

He said that its original purpose was to help Armenian people everywhere financially and culturally and to aid and establish Armenian schools all over the world.

Mr. KASHMANJIAN advised that in his opinion the Armenian people, as in all races, have different currents of thought and action.

He stated that in the last one or two decades some "politically minded" people have had "their way" in the higher echelon of the AGBU and that these individuals by their actions appear to be not very dependable in their "social political behavement" in which they follow the "Communist Party line".

He advised that these individuals are motivated by one of the following reasons:

Either through a "pretext" they are acting for the benefit of Armenia, though they are not Communists ideologically in their actions stating it is "good" for Armenia or their activities in following the "Communist line" are motivated by the hope that their actions will be harmful to the cause of the anti-Communist Dashnak Party or their activities in following the "Communist line" will

NY 100-46846

ingratiate them with the present Soviet regime in Armenia.

Mr. KASHMANJIAN stated he cannot say that the branches of the AGBU in the Near East allot funds to Armenian Communist schools because he does not believe there are Armenian Communist schools as such in the Near East though perhaps some of the professors in some of the schools are "Communistic".

He said, however, that Directors of some of the branches in the Near East are "pro-Communist" in the sense that they will not disburse funds to anti-Communist Dashnak schools and institutions but do disburse funds to schools which teach and instruct that the present regime in Armenia under Soviet domination is the "best way of life" for the Armenians in Soviet Armenia.

Mr. KASHMANJIAN suggested that the following individuals be interviewed concerning the activities of the AGBU:

~~VAHRAM DERDERIAN~~, a "100 per cent anti-Communist" U.S.A. who is a member of the Board of Directors of the AGBU and who is not a member of the Dashnak Party. SUBJECT

~~YERVANT MAVIAN~~, a "100 per cent anti-Communist" ORGANIZATION who is President of the AGBU and who is not a member of the Dashnak Party. SUBJECT ORGANIZATION U.S.A.

On December 6, 1961, ARAM G. AFARIAN, Executive Secretary, Armenian Prelacy, 411 East 53rd Street, New York City, advised that he came from Lebanon approximately fifteen years ago and that he is a member of the Dashnak Party.

He stated that the Prelacy is the Center of Administration of all churches in America and Canada that are associated with the See of Cilicia in Lebanon.

He advised that the AGBU was founded approximately 55-60 years ago with the objective of aiding the poor among

NY 100-46846

the Armenian people throughout the world.

He said that in the early years of its existence, Armenian people throughout the world were greatly attached to the Union because of its charitable endeavors but as the years passed the composition of the Union underwent changes which did not please all the Armenian people throughout the world.

He stated that now, most of the individuals associated with the Union are people who are "not anti-Communist in their feelings although they may not be pro-Communist".

That they are "blindly in a way" instruments who bring no contribution to and refuse to give any contribution to anti-Communist movements.

That in their poor judgement they may think it is the best policy for the well being of the people in Armenia for them to act as they do.

That they also act as they do because doing anything anti-Dashnak "pleases them".

Mr. AFARIAN advised that he or any Armenian who has anti-Communist feelings cannot be associated with the AGBU.

He stated that the Union does not in any way help the Catholicos in Lebanon or in any way aid the Catholicos in Lebanon because the Catholicos in Lebanon wants to reserve its independence and rejects every attempt by the Communists in Armenia or abroad to bring about cooperation in non-religious matters between the Catholicos in Eriwan, Armenia and the See of Cilicia in Lebanon because the Catholicos in Eriwan, Armenia is controlled and dominated by the Soviet Government.

NY 100-46846

He advised that every action by the Catholicos in Erivan, Armenia tends to degenerate the true mission and aim of the Apostolic Church in Armenia and throughout the world because of this control by the Soviet Government and hence the See of Cilicia will not cooperate in non-religious matters at any time with the Catholicos in Erivan, Armenia.

He stated that today the AGBU will not contribute in any way to the See in Cilicia but on the contrary the AGBU does not give the See of Cilicia yearly donations which they used to give in the past to the Catholicos in Cilicia.

In addition, he stated the AGBU will not contribute in any way to any anti-Communist school or institution in Lebanon but they "will and have contributed to schools and institutions that are pro-Communist in Lebanon".

On December 6, 1961, a source advised that he is not a member of any Armenian political party but he is in fact a "political independent".

This source advised that the AGBU was organized in Cairo, Egypt, in the early 1900's as a philanthropic organization primarily to aid orphans of Armenians massacred by the Turks.

The source stated that today it is aiding Armenian educational institutions and hospitals and Armenian individuals throughout the world, including Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus.

The source advised that the AGBU refuses funds to any school controlled by the Dashnak Party because the Dashnaks are primarily indoctrinating pupils in their schools in their own political beliefs.

NY 100-46846

Source said it is his belief that the Dashnaks are not an anti-Communist Party though they claim to be but in fact in their platforms and "political" activities, in his opinion, are closer to Socialism than any other Armenian political party.

The source advised that during the last ten years allegations of any kind against the AGBU have been made by the Dashnaks, including allegations that funds of the AGBU are being given to Communist inspired schools and religious institutions in Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus.

This source stated that he felt the Dashnak Party was using these allegations without foundation as a form of "blackmail" in an effort to hinder the philanthropic activities of the AGBU because the AGBU would not supply funds to Dashnak schools.

This source said that inasmuch as the Catholicos in Lebanon was elected by the Dashnaks he owes his position to them and thus consequently in his actions would defend the Dashnak Party.

The source stated that he felt that is why the Catholicos in Lebanon is claiming that the AGBU's branch offices in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus are supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions.

This source advised that he believes there are no pro-Communist sympathizers in America in the AGBU.

The source stated that it was his opinion that if there were individuals in branch offices of the AGBU in the Near East who were pro-Communist they would not be able to divert funds sent to them by the AGBU inasmuch as the disbursement of these funds is controlled by the AGBU in America.

NY T-1



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New York, New York

December 29, 1961

NY 100-46846

Title Armenian General Benevolent Union

Character Internal Security-Armenia

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent James E. Tierney, dated and captioned as above, at New York.

All sources (except any listed below) used in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 1/18/62

FROM : SAC, HOUSTON (105-857) (P)

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

OF AMERICA, INC.

IS-R

(OO: HOUSTON)

mjt /
F9217

RE: Houston letter to Bureau dated November 29, 1961.

Referenced letter requests New York to advise if there is an active investigation being conducted regarding captioned organization or if it is known if the organization is heavily infiltrated with communists.

On December 7, 1957, T-1 (Mrs. MAMIE De LaTORRE, 26 Dolphin Street, Houston, - requested) furnished the address of this organization as follows:

250 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, New York
LEXINGTON 2-4442
Cable: Armenbenev, New York

NEW YORK is requested to advise Houston status of this organization per request in referenced letter.

2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - New York (RM)
2 - Houston
KBJ/dr
(6)

REC-14

EX. - 107

100-356147-26

10 JAN 22 1962

57 JAN 20 1962

APR 1962
MURKIN

UNITED STATES

NT

Memorium

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 1/31/62

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-46846)

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
OF AMERICA, INC.
IS-R
(OO:HOUSTON)

Re Houston letters 11/29/61 and 1/18/62.

There is an investigation being conducted by the NYO entitled, Armenian General Benevolent Union, IS-Armenia based on information from Zre I~~Catholicos~~, Armenian Orthodox Church of Cilicia, Lebanon, who claims that Armenian private support is being given for Communist elements in the Armenian communities of Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. He states that the Armenian General Benevolent (AGBU) is steadily sending funds to its branch offices in these three Eastern countries, who in turn were supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions.

Instant matter has not been resolved, but there is no indication to date that this organization is heavily infiltrated with Communists.

From information developed in the NYO it appears that captioned organization is a branch office of the AEU in NY.

No additional information is desired by the NYO as to persons attending the 12/2/61 meeting mentioned in relet.

It is requested that no further investigation be conducted by Houston at this time.

If in the future facts are developed deeming it advisable to conduct investigation in Houston, Houston will be requested to conduct the investigation.

REC-10 | 00 - 356147-27

✓2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - Houston (105-857) (RM)
1 - New York (100-46846)

12 FEB 2 1962

JET:sav
(5)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| REPORTING OFFICE WASHINGTON FIELD | OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK | DATE 2/21/62 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 1/8 - 2/7/62 |
| TITLE OF CASE O ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION | | REPORT MADE BY SA HOWARD FLETCHER, JR. | TYPED BY kjy |
| CHARACTER OF CASE IS - ARMENIA | | | |

REFERENCES

Bureaulet to WF0 11/17/61.
WF0let to Bureau 12/20/61.

O-17 to WFO
cc. to Detroit, LA, NY
3-6-62
Catholics misspelled
page 1 under Details line 4 & 5.
ART/pavz

- RUC -

ENCLOSURE TO AY

Enclosed one copy of the booklet, "Why Do We Criticise?" by M. DICKRANIAN which was furnished to SA HOWARD FLETCHER, JR., at the time of his interview with MARK KESHISHIAN, 30th Street, S. E. It is not known whether through investigation of captioned organization copies of this booklet have come to the attention of the office of origin.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADD. DISSEMINATION.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Numerous attempts were made to arrange an interview with MARK KESHISHIAN before interview was finally set

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| APPROVED | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW | | |
| COPIES MADE: | | | | |
| 5 Bureau (100-356147) 1-Detroit (105-1790) (Info) (RM) 1-Los Angeles (Info) (RM) 2-New York (100-46846) (Enc. 1) (RM) 1-Washington Field (105-45174) <i>BEC.DIA.</i> <i>LEO</i> | | | | |
| 100-356147-28 25 FEB 23 1962 801-X | | | | |
| DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT | | | | |
| AGENCY | RAD C/1A by <i>[initials]</i> | | | |
| REQUEST/PREP'D. | State by <i>[initials]</i> | | | |
| DATE FWD. | 3-6-62 | | | |
| HOW FWD. | <i>[large checkmark]</i> | | | |
| BY | <i>[initials]</i> <i>LEO</i> | | | |
| NOTATIONS | | | | |
| <i>NAT. COM. SEC.</i> <i>RECEIVED</i> <i>3-14-62</i> <i>LEO FEB 23 1962</i> <i>100-356147-28</i> <i>801-X</i> | | | | |

WFO 105-45174)

up for 2/7/62. During the interview with KESHISHIAN, it was apparent that he had very few facts to support a claim that the captioned organization was communist controlled. He appeared to be more interested in pointing out that the control of the captioned organization was now in the hands of the Ramgavars and not his political group, the Tashnags. He started the interview by furnishing a copy of "Why Do We Criticise?" and stated that that contained all the information he possessed. He advised that Mr. EDWARD SAHAGIAN whose office telephone is LA 4-9276, and whose home telephone is KI 3-0558, was in a position to furnish more detailed information regarding captioned organization. He advised that Mr. SAHAGIAN's home address was 2714 Netherland Avenue, New York, New York. He advised that Mr. SAHAGIAN was known as Mr. EDWARD, SR. He recommended that the NY Office contact him for additional information.

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source

WF T-1 is [redacted]

FOIA(b) 7 - D
[redacted]

Where Located

Instant report

LEADS

DETROIT DIVISION

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Information copy of this report is being furnished to DE inasmuch as it contains information regarding ALEX MANOOGIAN who is National President of captioned organization.

LOS ANGELES DIVISION

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Information copy of this report is being furnished to LA since in the event Mr. DICKRANIAN has not been interviewed by the LA Office, the office of origin might desire him to be interviewed.

- B -

COVER PAGE

WFO 105-45174

NEW YORK DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will interview EDWARD SAHAGIAN, 2714 Netherland Avenue, 63 New York, New York, regarding any information he may have that captioned organization is communist controlled. Mr. SAHAGIAN's home telephone is KIng 3-0558 and his office telephone is LA 4-9276.

- C* -

COVER PAGE

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to:

Report of: SA HOWARD FLETCHER, JR. Office: Washington, D. C.
Date: 2/21/62

Field Office File No.: 105-45174 Bureau File No.: 100-356147

Title: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA

Synopsis:

WF T-1 advised on 2/7/62, Armenians in U. S. are divided into two groups, the Tashnags and the Ramgavars. The Tashnak Party was in power in Armenia when it was occupied by USSR, and many Tashnak leaders were killed which caused the Tashnags to dislike Russia. WF T-1 advised captioned organization started in 1906 in Egypt as a nonprofit organization to aid Armenians throughout the world. He stated that captioned organization is now controlled by the Ramgavar group in the U. S.

- RUC -

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

WF T-1 advised on February 7, 1962, that American Armenians are divided into two political groups, the Tashnags and the Ramgavars. The Tashnags consider Ware I, Armenian ^{CATHOLICOS} of Cilicia at Antelias, Lebanon, as being the head of the Armenian Church. The Ramgavars consider the ^{CATHOLICOS} of Etchmiadzin, Armenia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as being the head of the Armenian Church. Both groups have been in existence for over fifty years. The Tashnag Party was in power in 1922 when Armenia lost its status as an independent nation and was occupied by Russia. At this time many of the Tashnag leaders were killed by the Russians which caused the Tashnags to dislike Russia extremely. WF T-1 advised that he was a Tashnag.

WF T-1 advised that the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) was started in 1906 in Egypt as a nonprofit organization. There are about 150 chapters throughout the

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Subject Organization

United States. Its headquarters is located at 250 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York. The purpose is to aid indigent Armenians throughout the world especially in the Middle East where a large number had fled when Russia took over Armenia. These Armenians were struggling for economic advancement and needed assistance. WF T-1 advised that the noble aims of AGBU caused both Tashnags and Ramgavars to contribute to this organization. The AGBU has now acquired about \$15,000,000 for the alleged purpose of aiding Armenians throughout the world. WF T-1 advised that he, like most Armenians in the United States, has made contributions to AGBU in the past. He advised that control of this organization has gotten into the hands of the Ramgavar group which is pro-Russian. He stated that ALEX MANOOGIAN of Detroit, Michigan, is the National President of this organization but that it is run by a Mr. GUIRAGOSIAN, the Manager of the office at 250 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, and his secretary, Mrs. HOUSEPIAN. WF T-1 advised that he personally knew Mr. MANOOGIAN and does not believe that he personally would direct captioned organization along pro-Russian or pro-communist lines.

WF T-1 advised that Mr. DICKRANIAN, 1280 South Orange Drive, Los Angeles, California, published in 1961, a booklet entitled "Why Do We Criticise?" which contains information showing why Armenians in the United States should question the way in which AGBU is currently being operated. WF T-1 stated that DICKRANIAN pointed out in his booklet that the main purpose and aim of the AGBU is and should be to help Armenians in need without considering the beneficiaries' religion, or political beliefs. This was very clearly set out in the bylaws and regulations of the AGBU. WF T-1 advised that Mr. DICKRANIAN states that today AGBU has forsaken its fundamental noble aims and has become a party, that proof of this is obvious in its hateful attitude toward the lawfully elected national bodies in Lebanon, Syria, and elsewhere, also in the election of the Armenian Catharicos of Cilicia at Antelias, Lebanon.

WF T-1 advised that he is not attempting to belittle the AGBU but is desirous of having it function as originally

WFO 105-45174

planned by its founders to aid needy Armenians throughout the world regardless of their religion or political beliefs. He stated that this must be done if the money under its control is to be used as intended by the donors.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 105-45174

Washington 25, D. C.
February 21, 1962

Title ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA

Reference Report of SA HOWARD FLETCHER, JR.,
dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) used in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

WF T-1 has not been contacted a sufficient number of times to evaluate his reliability; however, he is in a position to furnish information regarding certain activities among Armenians in the United States.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK | OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK | DATE 2/27/62 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 2/12 - 23/62 |
| TITLE OF CASE ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION | | REPORT MADE BY JAMES E. TIERNEY | TYPED BY TC |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE IS - ARMENIA | |

XXX

REFERENCE:

Report of SA JAMES E. TIERNEY dated 12/29/61
at NY.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

A copy of this report has been disseminated to INS because of their possible future interest in this matter and to intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces for information.

O-1 Ny 5-7-62
date rpt will be
subm. ARJ/parv.
Report 4-30-62 v mm -

CC TO: *NYC*
REQ. REC'D 11-16-66
NOV 20 1966
ANS BY *K99* *ans*

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| APPROVED | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW | |
| COPIES MADE | | <p>100-356147-29</p> <p>REC-3</p> <p>FEB 28 1962</p> <p>EX-113</p> | |
| <p>5 - Bureau (100-356147) (RM) 1 - DIO, 3rd Naval District (RM) 1 - G-2, First Army (RM) 1 - 2nd OSI District (USAF) (RM) 1 - INS, NYC (RM) 3 - New York (100-46846)</p> | | <p>NAT. SEC. / SEC.</p> | |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Dissemination Record of Attached Report | | |
| Agency | <i>RAO, CIA by r/pd</i> | |
| Request Rec'd. | <i>State by liaison</i> | |
| Date Fwd. | <i>3-6-62</i> | |
| How Fwd. | <i>1075</i> | |
| By | <i>ARJ/parv 1962</i> | |

Notations

NY 100-46846

LEADS

DETROIT

At Detroit, Michigan

1. Will interview ALEX MANOOGIAN, 9240 Dwight Street, Detroit, Michigan concerning the original allegation in this matter that the AGBU is steadily sending funds to its branch offices in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus and that the branch offices in turn were supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions.

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

1. Will consider interviewing CHARLES DIKRAM KELEKIAN, 19 East 80th Street, NYC, who, by letter dated 8/26/57, directed a letter to the "Honorable Harrington, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington, D.C." in which he stated the AGBU is a tax evading, subversive entity engaging in a minimum of work it alleges to be doing, in order to remain in existence. It indulges in and has indulged in what it specifically states in its charter it is not doing.

KELEKIAN set forth in the letter information to support the above allegations.

2. Will consider recontacting Mrs. BEATRICE ALTMAYER RODNEY KELEKIAN, 19 East 80th Street, NYC.

She is NY T-2 in the report of SA JAMES E. TIERNEY dated 8/21/61, entitled "ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION, IS - ARMENIA".

3. Will interview HAIK KAVOOKJIAN, CHARLES KARAGHEUSIAN and LILY KARAGHEUSIAN concerning the above allegation.

- B*-

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to: 1 - INS, NYC (RM)
1 - DIO, 3rd Naval District (RM)
1 - G-2, First Army (RM)
1 - 2nd OSI District (USAF) (RM)

Report of: JAMES E. TIERNEY **Office:** New York, New York

Date:

Field Office File #: 2/27/68 100-46846 **Bureau File #:** 100-356147

Title: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA

Synopsis:

INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA

Synopsis:

YERVANT MAVIAN, President, American Unit, Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) states that branch offices of the AGBU must file an accounting of their disbursement of funds to the AGBU International which is filed in the New York City office of the AGBU. He said he knew none of the funds could be diverted to Communist educational and charitable organizations in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus and that if such an allegation was made it could not be true and it would have to be made by the Dashnak Party or a member of it. He said they have been trying for years to force the AGBU to disburse funds to Dashnak schools and institutions but the AGBU refuses to do so because the AGBU is a "non political" organization. As a result the Dashnaks through the years have made allegations that the AGBU contributes funds to Communist schools and institutions. ~~X~~ VAHRAM DERDERIAN, a member of the Central Committee, American Unit, AGBU advises that branch offices of the AGBU cannot divert funds to the above educational and charitable organizations because they must account for any disbursements. That if an allegation was made that they are diverting funds it would have to be made by the Dashnak Party or a member of it. He

of Sustent organization

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NY 100-46846

Synopsis (cont'd)

said the Dashnaks are "very strong" anti-Communists to the point that if any individual or organization were not "terribly" anti-Communist, the Dashnaks would consider them Communists. He said that inasmuch as the AGBU has numerous Ramgovar members the Dashnaks are liable to so accuse the AGBU of diverting funds because the AGBU is not as strongly anti-Communist in its activities as the Dashnaks desire it to be. He stated that through the years the Dashnaks have been making allegations, without foundation, that the AGBU is a pro-Communist organization.

- P -

DETAILS:

NY
On February 21, 1962, YERVANT MAVIAN, President, Lafayette Prudential Incorporated, Photo Engraving, 107 Grand Street, New York City advised he is the President of the American General Benevolent Union (AGBU) of America Incorporated and a member of the Central Committee of the American Unit of the AGBU.

He stated that the AGBU of America, Incorporated is active as an organization in the United States, Canada and South America whereas the parent organization, the AGBU International is active all over the world under the direction of ALEX MANOOGIAN, who is the President of the Masco Screw Products in Detroit, Michigan, as President.

9240 Downtn Street *4. Subject Organization*
Mr. MAVIAN said the AGBU was founded in 1906 in Cairo, Egypt to aid destitute Armenians who needed this aid due to their persecution by the Turks.

He advised that today, however, the AGBU which has approximately 12 to 13 million in funds furnishes aid and money

NY 100-46846

to educational and charitable institutions and to individuals who desire an education through scholarships, grants and loans.

Mr. MAVIAN stated that in the United States the AGBU has given financial aid to Harvard University, Columbia University and to Wayne University in Detroit, Michigan.

He advised that outside the United States the AGBU has contributed financially to the Melkonian Institute in Cyprus, to the Tarouhi Hagopian School and to the Hovagimian School in Beirut, Lebanon as well as the Nourbarian Library in Paris, France.

Mr. MAVIAN said that the AGBU, American unit has nothing to do with the allocation of funds to educational and charitable institutions in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus inasmuch as the parent organization, the AGBU International allocates these funds.

He stated that the Board of Directors of the AGBU International who authorize the allocation of these funds are extremely wealthy Armenian individuals who are definitely anti-Communist in their views and sympathies.

Mr. MAVIAN advised that the funds authorized for allocation to educational and charitable institutions are disbursed by branch offices of the AGBU located in foreign countries under the direction of the Board of Directors of the AGBU International.

He stated these branch offices after they disburse these funds must file an accounting of the disbursement to the AGBU International which is filed in the AGBU office in New York City.

He stated this office is located at 250 5th Avenue, New York City.

Mr. MAVIAN advised that he knew none of the funds could be diverted to Communist educational and charitable institutions in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus and that if any individual or organization made such an allegation they would

NY 100-46846

not be telling the truth.

He stated that he believed that the only organization or individual who would make such an allegation would have to be the Dashnak Party, an anti-Communist Party, or a member of this Party.

He advised though the Dashnaks can join the AGBU as individuals they decline to do so inasmuch as they would be in the minority and would not be able to control the activities of the AGBU.

He said that through the years the Dashnaks have been trying to force the AGBU to disburse funds to Dashnak schools and institutions which the AGBU refuses to do inasmuch as the AGBU is a "non political" organization and the Dashnaks are a political party.

Mr. MAVIAN stated as a result the Dashnaks have made allegations through the years that the AGBU contributes funds to Communist schools and institutions.

He suggested that the following members of the Board of Directors of the AGBU International would be able to substantiate his claim that none of the funds of the AGBU are diverted to Communist educational and charitable institutions.

~~Y~~ HAIK KAVOOKJIAN, a Vice President of the International and Chairman of the Board, Bingham Photo Engraving Corporation, 330 West 42nd Street, New York City.

~~MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION~~

~~CHARLES~~ KARAGHEUSIAN, a member of the Board of Directors of the AGBU International who is an officer of A. and M. Karagheusian Incorporated, 295 5th Avenue, New York City.

~~MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION~~

ALEX MANOOGIAN, owner, Masco Screw Products, Incorporated whose address is 9240 Dwight Street, Detroit, Michigan.

On February 21, 1962, VAHRAM DERDERIAN, owner of the Trocadero Catering Corporation, 179 Dyckman Street, New York City advised that he is a member of the Central Committee of the American Unit of the AGBU.

NY 100-46846

He stated that the AGBU International is governed by a Board of Directors and the American Unit, AGBU by a Central Committee.

He advised that the AGBU is a tax exempt non profit organization that aids charitable and educational institutions.

He said that all of the funds which the AGBU has at its disposal for allocation have been given to the AGBU through either wills or by donations which specifically state the purpose for which the money is to be disbursed.

Mr. DERDERIAN advised that the principal beneficiaries of the funds are the Melkonian Institute and AGBU schools in Lebanon and Greece.

~~Member of Soviet organization~~
He stated that he believed that generally the disbursement of the funds of the AGBU was directed by ~~LILY KARAGHEUSIAN~~ of the A. and M. Karagheusian, Incorporated. ~~N.V.~~

Mr. DERDERIAN advised that he believed that none of the funds sent to branch offices of the AGBU in foreign countries could be diverted to Communist educational and charitable institutions by these branch offices of the AGBU.

He stated that he believed that it was possible that some of the branch offices could give food and milk to individuals who might be pro-Communist in their beliefs without the branch offices being aware of these individuals' sympathies but that it would be impossible for any of the branch offices to divert funds to Communist educational and charitable institutions because the branch office must account for any disbursements to the AGBU office at 250 5th Avenue, New York City.

Mr. DERDERIAN said if an allegation were made that the AGBU was contributing through its branch offices to Communist charitable and educational institutions the allegation would have to be made by the Dashnak Party or a member of the Party.

He advised that when Soviet Armenia was independent the Dashnak Party was a major party in Armenia and the

NY 100-46846

Ramgovar Party, the "Democratic Party" in Armenia was a minority party.

However, when Armenia lost its independence to Russia, the Dashnaks became a minority party.

In addition to becoming a minority party Mr. DERDERIAN says the Dashnaks became "very strong" anti-Communists to the point that if any individual or organization were not "terribly" anti-Communist the Dashnaks would consider them Communists.

Mr. DERDERIAN said that inasmuch as the AGBU, though non-political, has numerous individuals of the Ramgovar Party as members, the Dashnaks who always opposed the Ramgovar Party, are liable to accuse the AGBU of allocating funds to Communist charitable and educational institutions because the AGBU is not as strongly anti-Communist in its activities as the Dashnaks desire it to be.

In conclusion, Mr. DERDERIAN stated that through the years the Dashnaks have been making allegations, without foundation, that the AGBU is a pro-Communist organization.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK | OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK | DATE 4/30/62 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/10-12/62 |
| TITLE OF CASE <u>ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION</u> | | REPORT MADE BY JAMES E. TIERNEY | TYPED BY a |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA | |

B
B-25-62 date rept
will be subm.

AR J/avv

Aug. 7-2-62
X by 7-6-62 AR J/avv

REFERENCE:

Report of SA JAMES E. TIERNEY, dated 2/27/62, at NY.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

A copy of this report has been disseminated to INS because of their possible future interest in this matter and to intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces for information.

LEADS:

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

CC TO: *SA*
REQ. REC'D *11-16-62*
NOV 29 1962
ANS.
BY: *189 and*

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

- 5 Bureau (100-356147) (RM)
 1-DIO, 3rd Naval District (RM)
 1-G-2, First Army (RM)
 1-2nd OSI District (USAF) (RM)
 1-INS, NYC (RM)
 3-New York (100-46846)

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|------------|---------|----|-------|
| 100- | 356147- | 30 | REC-1 |
| MAY 2 1962 | | | |
| EX-114 | | | |

| Dissemination Record of Attached Report | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| Agency | RPA, CIA, State (by Liaison) | | |
| Request Recd. | | | |
| Date Fwd. | 5-14-62 | | |
| How Fwd. | R/S | | |
| By | 249 AR J/avv | | |

Notations

WAT. SEC. SEC.

NY 100-46846

8/26/57, directed a letter to the "Honorable Harrington, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington, D.C." in which he stated the AGBU is a tax evading, subversive entity engaging in a minimum of work it alleges to be doing, in order to remain in existence. It indulges in and has indulged in what it specifically states in its charter it is not doing.

KELEKIAN set forth in the letter information to support the above allegations.

2. Will consider recontacting Mrs. BEATRICE ALTMAYER RODNEY KELEKIAN, 19 East 80th Street, NYC.

She is NY T-2 in the report of SA JAMES E. TIERNEY dated 8/21/61, entitled "ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION, IS - ARMENIA".

3. Will interview LILY KARAGHEUSIAN. It is noted that CHARLES KARAGHEUSIAN who is the first cousin of LILY KARAGHEUSIAN advised on 4/12/62 that she is traveling outside NYC and that she will not be available for interview for approximately three weeks.

- B* -
COVER PAGE

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to: 1-INS, NYC (RM)
1-DIO, 3rd Naval District (RM)
1-G-2, First Army (RM)
1-2nd OSI District (USAF) (RM)

Report of: JAMES E. TIERNEY **Office:** New York, New York

Date: 4/30/62

Field Office File #: 100-46846 **Bureau File #:** 100-356147

Title: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA

Synopsis: CHARLES KARAGHEUSIAN, Treasurer, Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) International, advised that the AGBU is a non-political and a non-sectarian organization and that it aids Armenian educational and charitable institutions and Armenian individuals. He said that the Board of Directors is responsible for the allocation of funds to institutions in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus, and that the allocation is handled by branch offices of the AGBU who must file an accounting. That because of this accounting funds could not be disbursed to Communist institutions. He stated that if allegations were made that these funds were so dispersed, the allegations would have to be made by the Dashnak Party or a member of it inasmuch as the Dashnaks have been making such allegations for many years against the AGBU. HAIKKAVOOKJIAN, Vice President, AGBU International, stated that all of the funds which the AGBU has at its disposal for allocation to Armenian institutions has been received either through donations or from the wills of deceased persons. He stated it was not possible that any of the funds could be disbursed by branch offices to Communist educational or charitable institutions because branch offices must account to the AGBU. He advised that if an allegation was made that funds were being so disbursed it would have to be made by the Dashnak Party or a member of it inasmuch as this party has been saying for years that the AGBU is a pro-Communist organization.

- P -

NY 100-46846

DETAILS:

On April 11, 1962, CHARLES KARAGHEUSIAN, Chairman of the Board, A. and M. Karagheusian, 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City, stated that he is the treasurer of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) International and a member of its Board of Directors. He advised that the AGBU is "completely and absolutely" a non-political and a non-sectarian organization.

He stated that the AGBU has approximately 12 million dollars in its treasury and that it aids Armenian educational and charitable institutions and Armenian individuals who are in need.

He said that the Board of Directors of the AGBU International is responsible for the allocation of funds to educational and charitable institutions in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus and that the allocation is handled by branch offices of the AGBU in these three eastern countries.

Mr. KARAGHEUSIAN advised that the Board of Directors of the AGBU International is composed of wealthy Armenians who are anti-Communist in their feelings and sympathies.

He stated the branch offices of the AGBU International must file an accounting of their allocation of funds to the AGBU International at the New York Office of the AGBU.

Mr. KARAGHEUSIAN advised that these funds, because of this accounting, could not be disbursed to Communist educational and charitable institutions in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus.

He said that if allegations were made that these funds are being so disposed the allegations would have to be made by the Dashnak Party, an anti-Communist party, or a member of this party.

NY 100-46846

Mr. KARAGHEUSTAN advised that for many years the Dashnaks have been making such allegations against the AGBU inasmuch as the AGBU will not disburse AGBU funds to Dashnak schools and institutions because the Dashnaks are a political party and the AGBU is a non-political organization.

On April 11, 1962, HAIK KAVOOKJIAN, Chairman of the Board, Bingham Photo Engraving Corporation, 330 West 42nd Street, New York City, stated that he is Vice President of the AGBU International and a member of its Board of Directors. Armenian General Benevolent Union

Mr. KAVOOKJIAN advised that all of the funds which the AGBU International has at its disposal for allocation to Armenian charitable and educational institutions has been received either through donations to the AGBU or from wills of deceased persons. He stated that it was not possible that any of these funds could be disbursed by branch offices of the AGBU in foreign countries to Communist educational and charitable institutions because these branch offices must account to the AGBU office in New York City.

Mr. KAVOOKJIAN advised that if an allegation was made that the AGBU was disbursing funds to Communist educational and charitable institutions it would have to be made by the anti-Communist Dashnak Party or a member of this party inasmuch as this party has been saying throughout the years without any basis in fact that the AGBU is a pro-Communist organization.

He advised they accused the AGBU of being pro-Communist because the AGBU is a non-political organization who will not contribute funds to Dashnak schools and institutions inasmuch as the Dashnak Party is a political party.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-356147)

DATE: 6/29/62

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-46846) *PY*

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION
IS - ARMENIA

Re report of SA JAMES E. TIERNEY dated 4/30/62, at NY, which sets forth a lead to interview LILY ~~KARAGHEUSIAN~~.

The SA who has been assigned this matter has been on extended sick leave.

On 6/21/62, it was ascertained from CHARLES ~~KARAGHEUSIAN~~, A. and M. KARAGHEUSIAN, 295 Fifth Ave., NYC, that LEILA KARAGHEUSIAN is travelling in Europe and that she will not return for approximately a month and a half.

The NYO will hold this lead in abeyance until she returns.

The NYO will not cover the leads set forth in re report to interview CHARLES D~~I~~RAN KELEKIAN and Mrs. BEATRICE ALTMAYER RODNEY ~~KELEKIAN~~, 19 E. 80th St., NYC. *New York*

It is the considered opinion of the NYO after a review of the investigation conducted to date in this matter that an interview of these individuals will not resolve the original allegation made by Zre I Catholicos, Armenian Orthodox Church of Cilicia Lebanon, that the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) is steadily sending funds to its branch offices in ~~three~~ three Eastern countries, who in turn were supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions with these funds.

It is believed that based on information previously furnished by these individuals in this matter that they are not in a position to state whether or not the allegation made by the Catholicos is true.

② - Bureau (100-356147)
1 - New York (100-46846)

JET:lhb
(3)

REC-45

100-356147-31

EX 101
12 JUL 3 1962

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WATERFALL SEC
WATERFALL SEC

60 JUL 16 1962

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| REPORTING OFFICE DETROIT | OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK | DATE 7/18/62 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/26 - 7/12/62 |
| TITLE OF CASE <u>ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION</u> | | REPORT MADE BY REX H. PLOEN | TYPED BY elc |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE IS - ARMENIA | |

REFERENCE: New York letter to Detroit, dated 6/21/62.

- RUC -

LEAD

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Will interview Mr. K. GUIRAGOSIAN, Director, Armenian General Benevolent Union International, 250 Fifth Avenue, New York City, regarding a current accounting of Armenian General Benevolent Union funds.

ADMINISTRATIVE

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADD. DISSEMINATION.

As an enclosure to this report, New York Office is being furnished a copy of the Armenian General Benevolent Union Annual Report of the Central Board of Directors for the Year 1960, which was given to SA REX H. PLOEN by ALEX MANOOGIAN on July 10, 1962, at Detroit.

APPROVED

*OSW
TSR*

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

5 - Bureau (100-356147) (REGISTERED)

REC-24

2 - New York (100-46846) (Enc. 1)
(REGISTERED)

EX-116

1 - Detroit (105-1790)

DOW IN
ENC.D

16 JUL 23 1962

| DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| AGENCY | <i>State by liaison</i> | <i>RAO, CIA by r/s</i> | APR 30 |
| REQUEST RECD. | | | NOTATIONS <i>No WH PS</i> |
| DATE FWD. | | | <i>NATIONAL SEC.</i> |
| HOW FWD. | <i>8-2-62</i> | <i>56 AUG</i> | <i>3 1962</i> |
| BY | <i>ART/jay</i> | | |

DE 105-1790

It is being left to the discretion of the New York Office as to the desirability of reproducing pertinent portions of the above stated report of the Armenian General Benevolent Union for the Bureau and/or dissemination. Mr. MANOOGIAN advised that the 1961 report of the Armenian General Benevolent Union is not yet available.

- B* -
COVER PAGE

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Report of: | REX H. PLOEN | Office: Detroit, Michigan |
| Date: | July 18, 1962 | |
| Field Office File No.: | 105-1790 | Bureau File No.: 100-356147 |
| Title: | ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION | |

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA

Synopsis: *MCH*
 ALEX MANOOGIAN, President, Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) International, stated when interviewed that an allegation that AGBU funds were sent to its branch offices in Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus and that the branch offices in turn were supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions is unfounded and not true. MANOOGIAN said the AGBU International makes a public accounting yearly of their disbursement of funds and that none of these funds were diverted to support Communist inspired schools or religious institutions.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

On July 10, 1962, ALEX MANOOGIAN, President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) International and President of Masco Screw Products Company, was interviewed at his office 12825 Ford Road, Dearborn, Michigan. Mr. MANOOGIAN stated that an allegation that AGBU funds were sent to its branch offices in Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus and that the branch offices in turn were supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions is unfounded and not true. He said the AGBU International makes a public accounting yearly of their disbursement of funds and that none of these funds were diverted to support Communist inspired schools or religious institutions.

DE 105-1790

Mr. MANOOGIAN further stated that the records of the AGBU International are located in his office at 250 Fifth Avenue, New York City. He advised that he travels to New York each month to attend to business of the AGBU International and that he would like to present a current accounting of AGBU International funds with the aid of his certified public accountant at their New York Office. He suggested that contact for such a meeting be arranged with Mr. K. GIURRAGOSIAN, Director, AGBU International, 250 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Mr. MANOOGIAN concluded that he is anxious to disprove any such allegation of the AGBU being pro-Communist and that he would welcome the opportunity of an accounting of their records to show exactly where their money has been spent.

of subject UNION

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
SY:RMU

TO: The Honorable
J. Edgar Hoover,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington 25, D. C.

FROM: John Noonan, Chief,
Records and Services Branch,
For the Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Security.

SUBJECT: Armenian General Benevolent Union

SEP 14 1962

This will refer to reports on the subject periodically received from your Bureau, BuFile No. 100-356147.

A copy of Memorandum of Conversation between Mr. L. Douglas Heck, Chargé d'Affaires ad Interim of the American Embassy at Cyprus and Mr. L. V. Levonian, dated July 24, 1962 may be of interest because of the involvement of AGBU in the local Armenian Community in Cyprus (page two).

Armenia

Enclosure:

One, as stated

COPY TO: The Deputy Director, Plans,
Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington, D. C. REC- 91

100-356147-33

Copy to DY
by routing slip for Mr. G. end.
 info action
date 9-19-62
by HRT/BID

EX-10A

5 SEP 1962

AP/SEC

NASC

1 Xerox copy made
of enclo 919-62

ART/PW

CONFIDENTIAL
REC'D.

~~When separated from attachments, handle
this document as CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

56 SEP 26 1962

This document consists of 3 pages
~~SECRET~~ Number 5 of 7 copies, Series A

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: Mr. L. V. Levonian, Cypriot businessman
 Mr. L. Douglas Heck, Charge d'Affaires a.i. of Embassy

Date: July 24, 1962

Place: Mr. Heck's residence

Levonian is a young Armenian businessman whose friends are mostly in the Greek Cypriot community. His father was defeated by B. A. Tilbian in the 1960 elections for the position of representative of the Armenian community in the Communal Chamber. He is the son-in-law of Chakarian, right wing, wealthy, elder statesman of the Armenian community. Levonian's family connections obviously place him under right wing influence. However, he is essentially nonpolitical, but at the same time, a loyal Armenian concerned about his community's welfare.

During our luncheon, Levonian said he wanted to tell us about certain developments in the Armenian community because he was concerned over the way things were going. Problem No. 1 was Tilbian, who in addition to being the representative of the Armenian community in the Communal Chamber, is the agent of Eastman Kodak in Cyprus. Levonian explained that the usual division within the Armenian community had been intensified by the 1956 elections in the Archdiocese of Beirut. The Cyprus see has always supported the Archbishop of Beirut in opposition to the claims of Soviet Armenians and did so again in 1956. Since that time, there has been a concerted effort by the left wing elements to gain control of the Church Committee which manages the affairs of the community and selects the delegates to religious conventions. The Church Committee is re-elected every five years. The right wing has managed to maintain control in this Committee, but the left wing claims that the Committee represents a minority and has remained in office by denying the vote to many Armenians. The right wing answer is that only Armenians paying dues annually are entitled to vote. Levonian added that since 1956, left wing members have been very careful to pay their dues.

Against this background, Tilbian set himself up as the opponent of the right wing whose spokesman was Levonian's father. Tilbian won the 1960 elections easily demonstrating far better organization than his right wing opponent. He reportedly brought to the polls Armenians whom the right wing had never heard of. Once elected, Tilbian embarked on a campaign to discredit the Vicar General who represents the Armenian Archbishop here and the Church Committee. There have been all types of harassment, many very petty, but the net result is to split the community further. For example, Tilbian has prevented the Vicar General from giving services at the Melkonian Institute, the principal Armenian school, and no religion is taught there.

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100-356147-33

~~SECRET~~

-2-

except when there is a visiting priest from Soviet Armenia.

Levonian does not believe that Tilbian is a communist. In his opinion, Tilbian's motives include social ambition and family feuding. Tilbian is related by marriage to the Guzounian clan, one of whose members expected to marry Chakarian's daughter. When this did not work out, the Guzounians suffered considerable loss of face and they have been feuding ever since with the Chakarians. Another factor explaining Tilbian's activities is his dependence on the Armenian communists who helped him win the election and who have now captured him. The key man behind Tilbian is S. Devletian, a hard core communist who moved into Tilbian's Kodak office after his election and masterminded Tilbian's activities. Another friend is Glaftos Clerides, and whenever Tilbian needs a favor from the government, he consults with Clerides who usually manages to help.

Another source of strength is the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) which has its headquarters in the United States. The local branch is controlled by the communists and its funds are placed at Tilbian's disposal.

Tilbian originally supported the Soviet Armenian drive to arrange for the repatriation of Armenians. When the current drive was started by the Soviet Embassy here, some 800 signatures were obtained, but Levonian does not anticipate that more than 400 will leave. According to Levonian, interest in repatriation results from the bleak economic outlook for the poorer elements of the Armenian community here and from an emotional appeal to see the motherland again. However, recently, Tilbian and the AGBU quietly reversed their position on repatriation because Tilbian now realizes that most of those who will leave are his supporters and he cannot afford to lose their votes. This has antagonized some who claim that Tilbian is interested only in the votes and not the welfare of his supporters. To complicate matters, the right wing leaders are encouraging repatriation in order to weaken the opposition.

One of the problems that disturbs the right wing leaders are the social contacts between the Armenian and American communities. Americans seem to see more of Tilbian's supporters than of right wing members. Levonian acknowledges that most of the more interesting and energetic members of the Armenian community are to be found in the Tilbian group. He did not categorize them as communists, but rather as left wing supporters of Tilbian. These include Dr. Ashdjian, Androssian, and Guobenlian of Reuters, whose father is a party member. Levonian also acknowledged that the defection of these persons to the left wing is partly the fault of the right wing leaders who are older, refuse to share power and have closed the doors to the younger generation. The right wing is now aware of its mistakes and has arranged for someone named Navasartian to come to Cyprus and help organize the right wing politically. Navasartian is an American citizen

~~SECRET~~

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-3-

who worked for VOA. He is an accomplished linguist and an educated person. His objectives here are known to the Ministry of the Interior. Tevonian expressed the hope that we might find some sort of job for this person to supplement the income that the right wing leaders are giving him.

Distribution

Mr. Ledbetter (1)
Mr. Coon, OTI (1)
Mr. Linthicum (1)
Central files (3)
Mr. Heck's chron (1)

Copies #1, 2 & 3 - Central files
Copy #4 - Mr. Ledbetter
Copy #5 - Mr. Coon
Copy #6 - Mr. Linthicum
Copy #7 - Mr. Heck's chron

LHeck:rvd
August 7, 1962

~~SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK | OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK | DATE 11/29/62 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 10/1 - 11/21/62 |
| TITLE OF CASE ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION | | REPORT MADE BY JOHN J. ELLIOTT | TYPED BY MMC |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE IS - ARMENIA | |

JB

REFERENCES:

SA Report of SA JAMES E. TIERNEY dated 4/30/62, at NY.
 NY letter to Bureau dated 6/29/62.
 Report of SA REX H. PLOEN dated 7/18/62, at Detroit.

- C -

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADD. DISSEMINATION.ADMINISTRATIVE:

A copy of this report has been disseminated to INS because of their possible interest in this matter and to the intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces for information.

This report has been classified "Secret" because the Memorandum of Conversation dated 7/24/62, written by Mr. L. DOUGLAS HECK, Charge d'Affaires ad Interim, American Embassy, Cyprus, mentioned in the details of this report, was classified "Secret". It is to be noted that this Memorandum of Conversation was furnished to the Bureau by letter dated 9/14/62, by Mr. JOHN NOONAN, Chief, Records and Services Branch, for the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security of the United States Department of State.

PH

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|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| APPROVED | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW | |
| COPIES MADE: | | 100 - 356147-B4 | REC. 5 |
| | | TO DEC 3 1962 | |

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|---|-----------------|-----|-----|
| Dissemination Record of Attached Report | | | |
| Agency | State By Letter | CDA | RJG |
| Request Recd. | | | |
| Date Fwd. | 12-14-62 | | |
| How Fwd. | B/L | | |
| By | | | |

55 DEC 14 1962

Notations: *NAC*

NY 100-46846

It is to be noted that the copy of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Annual Report of the Central Board of Directors for the Year 1960, which was furnished to the NYO as an enclosure to referenced report of SA REX H. PLOEN dated 7/18/62, at Detroit, was made a part of instant NY file on the AGBU. The NYO has reviewed this Annual Report and does not deem it necessary to reproduce pertinent portions of the report for the Bureau and/or dissemination.

The NYO has completely reviewed instant case file. The NYO has been unable to substantiate the original allegation made by His Holiness ZRE I. CATHOLICOS, Armenian Orthodox Church of Cilicia, Lebanon, that the AGBU is steadily sending funds to its branch offices in Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus, who in turn were supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions. The NYO has also been unable to substantiate the allegation set forth in instant report that according to Mr. L.V. LEVONIAN, a Cypriot businessman, the Cyprus Branch of the AGBU is controlled by Communists.

For the information of the Bureau, a review of instant ~~No. 100-46846~~ case file reflects that down through the years, the Dashnak Party, an anti-Communist party, has developed a hatred for the AGBU primarily because the AGBU, being non-political in nature, can disburse no funds to the Dashnak Party, which is a political party. As a result, the Dashnak Party has been alleging for several years that the AGBU gives support to Communist inspired educational and charitable institutions.

Inasmuch as the NYO has conducted all logical investigation in this matter in an effort to substantiate the above allegations, with negative results, and, in view of the fact that allegations of this nature, have, down through the years, been originated by the Dashnak Party, no further investigation is being conducted in this matter and the NYO is placing this case in a closed status.

- B* -
COVER PAGE

~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:
 1 - DIO, 3rd Naval District (RM)
 1 - G-2, First Army (RM)
 1 - 2nd OSI District, USAF (RM)
 1 - INS, NYC (RM)

Report of: JOHN J. ELLIOTT
Date: 11/29/62

Office: NEW YORK

Field Office File #: 100-46846

Bureau File #: 100-356147

Title: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - ARMENIA

Synopsis: L.V. LEVONIAN, a Cypriot businessman, stated that the Cyprus Branch of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) is controlled by Communists. Miss LEILA KARAGHEUSIAN, a member of the Board of Directors of AGBU International and Mr. KRIKOR GUIRAGOSSIAN, Executive Director, AGBU International, advised that the allegation made that AGBU funds were sent to AGBU branch offices in Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus and that these branch offices in turn were supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions is untrue, and that the allegation that the Cyprus Branch of the AGBU is controlled by Communists is also untrue.

- C -

DETAILS:

It is to be noted that a Memorandum of Conversation dated July 24, 1962, written by Mr. L. DOUGLAS HECK, Charge d'Affaires ad Interim, American Embassy, Cyprus, pertaining to a conversation between Mr. HECK and Mr. L.V. LEVONIAN, a Cypriot businessman, at Mr. HECK's residence, reflected the following:

~~SECRET~~

~~Group I~~

~~Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification~~

NY 100-48846

Mr. LEVONIAN stated that the Cyprus Branch of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) is controlled by Communists. ~~SUBJECT ORGANIZATION~~

On October 4, 1962, Miss LEILA KARAGHEUSIAN, 88 Central Park West, New York City, a member of the Board of Directors of A. and M. Karagheusian, Inc., 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City, advised SA JOHN J. ELLIOTT that she is a member of the Board of Directors of the AGBU International, 250 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Miss KARAGHEUSIAN further advised that as a member of the Board of Directors of the AGBU International, she is thoroughly familiar with all facets of the operation of the AGBU and is one of those responsible for the disbursement of AGBU funds to educational and charitable institutions in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. Miss KARAGHEUSIAN related that the allegation made that AGBU funds were sent to its branch offices in Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus and that these branch offices in turn were supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions is absolutely untrue and has no basis in fact. Miss KARAGHEUSIAN further related that the allegation that the Cyprus Branch of the AGBU is controlled by Communists is also untrue and has no basis in fact. ~~SUBJECT ORGANIZATION~~ NY Middle EAST

Miss KARAGHEUSIAN stated that the AGBU is absolutely a non-political and a non-sectarian organization. She further stated that the AGBU has in excess of 10 million dollars in its treasury and this money is used to aid Armenian charitable and educational institutions throughout the world and also to aid Armenian individuals who are in need of assistance.

Miss KARAGHEUSIAN added that she has travelled extensively throughout the world, having only recently returned from a trip to the Middle East, and she has observed first-hand many of the charitable and educational institutions which have been the recipient of AGBU funds and these charitable and educational institutions are "definitely not" Communist inspired.

According to Miss KARAGHEUSIAN, the funds which the AGBU has at its disposal for disbursement to Armenian charitable and educational institutions has been received through donations

NY 100-46846

to the AGBU from wealthy Armenians throughout the world. Miss KARAGHEUSIAN advised that it was not possible that any of the funds disbursed by various AGBU Branch Offices in foreign countries was given to Communist inspired schools and religious institutions because every AGBU branch office throughout the world, including those in Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus must make an accounting as to where the money was disbursed to the AGBU International in New York City.

Miss KARAGHEUSIAN stated that for the past several years, the anti-Communist Dashnak Party has been saying, without any basis in fact, that the AGBU is a pro-Communist organization. Miss KARAGHEUSIAN related that for years the Dashnak Party has been angry with the AGBU because the AGBU would never disburse any funds to Dashnak schools and institutions because the Dashnak Party is a political party. According to Miss KARAGHEUSIAN, it is her opinion that any allegation made to the effect that the AGBU is steadily sending funds to its branch offices in Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus, who in turn, were supporting Communist inspired schools and religious institutions with these funds, and any allegation made to the effect that the Cyprus Branch of the AGBU is controlled by Communists, would have to be made by the Dashnak Party or individual members of the Dashnak Party.

Miss KARAGHEUSIAN concluded by stating that the members of the Board of Directors of the AGBU International, all of whom she knows well, are wealthy individuals who definitely have anti-Communist sympathies.

~~SUBJECT ORGANIZATION~~
On November 7 and 8, 1962, Mr. KRIKOR GUIRAGOSSIAN, Executive Director, AGBU International, 250 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and a member of the Board of Directors of the AGBU International, advised SA JOHN J. ELLIOTT that the AGBU was founded on April 15, 1906, in Cairo, Egypt, as a charitable organization whose purpose was and still is to aid poor Armenians and Armenian educational and charitable institutions throughout the world. Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN further advised that the AGBU was founded as a non-political, non-sectarian organization, which it remains today. *NY*

NY 100-46846

Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN stated that the AGBU now has approximately 10 million dollars in its treasury, this money having been received through donations or from wills of deceased persons. According to Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN, this money is used to furnish aid to Armenian educational and charitable institutions and to individuals of Armenian descent who desire an education through scholarships, grants and loans. Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN stated that the Board of Directors of the AGBU International authorizes the allocation of this money throughout the world, which money is actually disbursed by AGBU branch offices. Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN added that branch offices of the AGBU International, including those in Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus, after they disburse these funds, must file an accounting of the disbursements to the AGBU International in New York City.

According to Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN, because this type of accounting of AGBU funds is made, these funds could not be disbursed to Communist inspired educational and charitable institutions in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN advised that any allegation made that AGBU funds are disbursed to Communist inspired educational and charitable institutions in Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus is untrue and any allegation that the Cyprus Branch of the AGBU is controlled by Communists is also untrue.

In Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN's opinion, the only organization or individual who would make the above allegations is the Dashnak Party or a member of the Dashnak Party.

Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN added that over the years, the Dashnak Party and members of that Party have been attempting to force the AGBU to disburse funds to Dashnak schools and institutions, however, the AGBU cannot do this because the AGBU is non-political in nature and the Dashnak Party is a political party. Because of the AGBU's refusal to disburse funds to the Dashnak Party, the Dashnak Party vehemently dislikes the AGBU and is jealous of the AGBU because of the vast amount of money the AGBU has at its disposal. According to Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN, down through the years, the Dashnak Party has attempted to discredit the AGBU by accusing the AGBU of contributing funds to Communist

~~SECRET~~

NY 100-46846

schools and institutions, whereas there is no basis in fact for these allegations.

Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN advised that the Board of Directors of the AGBU International is composed of wealthy Armenians who are definitely anti-Communist in their sympathies.

Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN advised that the complete financial records of the AGBU, showing where all of the funds are disbursed, are available for review by the United States Government at any time, should the United States Government desire to audit these records. Mr. GUIRAGOSSIAN concluded by stating that these financial records show that no AGBU funds are diverted to support Communist inspired schools or religious institutions.

- 5* -

~~SECRET~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New York, New York
October 11, 1968

[Union General de Beneficencia Armenia]~~(General Union for Armenian Charity)~~
Alex Manoogian

It is noted that the current Manhattan Telephone Directory does not contain a listing for either the Union General de Beneficencia Armenia (General Union for Armenian Charity) or Alex Manoogian.

On October 10, 1968, Pauline DiFiore of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York advised that the files available to her contain no information identifiable with Alex Manoogian.

On October 9, 1968, a confidential source, in a position to furnish information concerning business firms and other organizations operating in the New York City area, advised that there was no information identifiable with either the captioned organization or Alex Manoogian.

The files of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation contain no information identifiable with either the captioned organization or Alex Manoogian.

9/28/82
CLASS. BY G-1 SPVew/1pm
FILED BY [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

100-356147-35

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK
SUBJECT: UNION GENERAL

~~SECRET~~

DATE: 10/11/68

DIRECTOR, FBI

SAC, NEW YORK

(RUC)

UNION GENERAL DE BENEFICENCIA ARMENIA
(GENERAL UNION FOR ARMENIAN CHARITY),
ALEX MANOOGIAN

ALEX MANOOOGIAN

~~ReBulet to NY, 9/30/68.~~

Transmitted herewith are the original and five copies
of an LHM prepared on the captioned matter dated as above at NY.

The confidential source mentioned in the enclosed LHM
is [redacted] contacted on 10/9/68 by SA WILLIAM F.MARTIN.

Records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York were caused to be checked by IC JOHN L. KAPP.

~~9/28/82
CLASS. BY 504 elms / xpm
DATE OF REVIEW _____
COMPT# 225780~~

20 Buenos Aires 7
1st 3 ave ~~10~~

MCT-5

W 07
10/30/68
R.L. 10/30/68

REF-35

00336147-35

3-Bureau (Encls. 6) (RM)
(1-Legat, Buenos Aires)
1-New York

TJD:dmw

(4)

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~

卷之三

— 11 —



1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Ridgeway

100-38647-35 9/28/83
REC-35 100-38647-35 9/28/83
DATE OF REVIEW 100-38647-35 9/28/83
ARMENIAN CENTRAL BENEVOLENT UNION Comp 225700

A confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1961 that the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) 250-5th Avenue, New York City, was established in 1906 in Egypt as a nonprofit organization and chartered under Delaware Laws in 1908 as a nonmembership organization.

AGBU officers serve the organization without compensation and with election of officers in June of each year. In 1961, the Union had approximately 150 chapters located throughout the United States. It was formed to aid needy Armenians in the United States and abroad. It provides aid to schools, hospitals, and gives scholarships and loans to individuals. Its income is raised from social activities.

On February 15, 1965, a source who has furnished both reliable and unreliable information, reported that the AGBU is a philanthropic Armenian society with headquarters in New York which distributes funds throughout the world for needy Armenian causes. The source advised that reportedly most of these funds are contributed by wealthy American Armenians and although the parent organization in New York is free of communist taint, some of the subsidiary branches of the organization, which are located in many of the large cities throughout the world, are directed by communists, or communist sympathizers.

A source of unknown reliability advised in June, 1962, that Alex Hnacogian is President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union International and that he is also President of the Nasco Screw Products Company, Dearborn, Michigan. This source described Hnacogian as a white male born June 14, 1900, at Smyrna, Turkey, and a naturalized United States citizen.

The files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation contain no information concluding that Alex Hnacogian is now or has in the past been a member of the Communist Party or any organization designated subversive by the United States Government.

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (detached)

PLR:slm

(6) 100

1-100-383696

SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

NOTE:

[Legat. Buenos Aires,] information concerning the AGBU
(Union General de Beneficencia Armenia) and Alex Manoogian in
connection with []

[] . Bufiles reveal no information
concerning Union General de Beneficencia Armenia; however, this
organization is probably identical with AGBU whose president is
reportedly Alex Manoogian. Information contained in above []
LHM obtained in Bufile 100-356-47, 14, 20, 32. The source who
furnished information concerning Alexander Manoogian, is
Alexander Manoogian who on July 10, 1962, advised the Bureau
that he is the President of the AGBU and President of
Masco Screw Products Company, Dearborn, Michigan.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

1 - Mr. R. J. Oglesby, Jr.

CODE

TELETYPE

NITEL

TO LEGAT BUENOS AIRES (105-1235) (105-1236) NOVEMBER 21, 1974
FROM DIRECTOR FBI (100-356147) 1 - Mr. J. R. Hagy

~~SECRET~~

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION (AGBU), INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA.

REURTEL NOVEMBER 15, 1974, CAPTIONED "ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEFICIARY UNION (UGAB); [redacted]

~~(S)~~

BUREAU FILES REVEAL [redacted]

[redacted] CONCERNING THE UNION GENERAL DE

BENEFICENCIA ARMENIA AND ALEX MANOOGIAN IN CONNECTION WITH A MATTER THEN UNDER INVESTIGATION, AND THAT AN LHM DATED OCTOBER 29, 1968, CAPTIONED "ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION," CONTAINING DATA CONCERNING THIS ORGANIZATION AND ALEX MANOOGIAN WAS FORWARDED TO YOUR OFFICE IN OCTOBER, 1968. PRESUMABLY YOUR FILE CONCERNING THIS MATTER HAS BEEN DESTROYED, AND COPIES OF LHM ARE BEING FORWARDED TO YOU UNDER SEPARATE COVER. ~~(S)~~

BUFILES ARE NEGATIVE CONCERNING ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEFICIARY UNION, THE MUREKIAN FOUNDATION, AND DICRAN MUREKIAN
1 - 100-383696 (ALEX-MANOOGIAN) *REC-102-A-1056147-36*
1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Route through for review)

JRH:pja *pjd*

(6)

NOV 25 1974

SEE NOTE PAGE 3

720123

WJB

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

GPO 954-546

CHARTERED FEB 1975

TELETYPE TO LEGAT BUENOS AIRES

~~SECRET~~

RE: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

[PENDING RECEIPT OF AFOREMENTIONED LHM,]
X
THAT THE AGBU WAS FOUNDED IN 1906 IN EGYPT AS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, AND CHARTERED IN UNITED STATES UNDER DELAWARE LAWS IN 1908 AS A MEMBERSHIP GROUP. AS OF 1961, THE GROUP HAD APPROXIMATELY 150 CHAPTERS LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. IT WAS FORMED TO AID NEEDY ARMENIANS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD. REPORTEDLY THE AGBU PARENT ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN FREE OF COMMUNIST TAINT, BUT SOME OF THE SUBSIDIARY BRANCHES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY DIRECTED BY COMMUNISTS OR COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS.

AS OF 1971, ALEX MANOOGIAN WAS PRESIDENT OF THE AGBU INTERNATIONAL. HE WAS THEN DESCRIBED AS BEING A WHITE MALE, BORN JUNE 14, 1900, AT SMYRNA, TURKEY, AND A NATURALIZED UNITED STATES CITIZEN.

NEW YORK AND DETROIT ARE BEING REQUESTED TO CONTACT LOGICAL ARMENIAN AND SOVIET EMIGRE SOURCES RELATIVE TO ALLEGATION OF CONNECTIONS EXISTING BETWEEN AGBU AND [] IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA. OBTAIN AND FORWARD IN FORM SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION TO INTERESTED UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ALL DATA AVAILABLE FROM [] CONCERNING THIS MATTER. X

~~CLASSIFIED BY 3676 XGDS 1 AND 2, INDEFINITE~~

[] X
END.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

TELETYPE TO LEGAT BUENOS AIRES

~~SECRET~~

RE : ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

NOTE:

~~SECRET~~

Buenos Aires teletype 11/15/74, contained [redacted] information concerning an Armenian ethnic group located throughout the world, alleging group, headed by Alex Manoogian, was one of number of groups being funded by [redacted] in Buenos Aires. [redacted] in 1968; however, Legat, Buenos Aires, undoubtedly has no record of [redacted] as our record procedures permit Legats to destroy files after several years, for space purposes. LHM summarizing data in Bufiles concerning AGBU and Alex Manoogian being sent Legat, Buenos Aires, under separate cover. Detroit (which covers residence of Manoogian) and New York, (which was origin in our investigation of AGBU) are being also advised, under separate cover, of allegation of [redacted]

~~SECRET~~

FOIA b 1

FOIA b 1

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Section11-18, 1974

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Name Searching Unit - Room 6527 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Service Unit - Room 6524 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Forward to File Review |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Attention _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Return to _____ |

Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular Request (Analytical Search) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Subversive References Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nonsubversive References Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Main _____ References Only |

Type of Search Requested:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Restricted to Locality of _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exact Name Only (On the Nose) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Buildup <input type="checkbox"/> Variations |

Subject Dicran Murekian

Birthdate & Place _____

Address Director of Murekian Foundation

Localities _____

Searcher Initials Oliver

R# _____ Date _____

Prod. _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

AIRHegy422045602

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Section11-18, 1974

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Name Searching Unit - Room 6527 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Service Unit - Room 6524 |
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Supervisor Room Ext.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Subversive References Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nonsubversive References Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Main _____ References Only |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Restricted to Locality of _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exact Name Only (On the Nose) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Buildup <input type="checkbox"/> Variations |

Armenian General Beneficiary Union

Subject _____

Birthdate & Place _____

Address _____

Localities _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initials Alvani

Prod. _____ FILE NUMBER _____ SERIAL _____

NIR

Hagan
4250
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Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Section11-18, 19

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Name Searching Unit - Room 6527 |
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Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Regular Request (Analytical Search) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Subversive References Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nonsubversive References Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Main _____ References Only |

Type of Search Requested:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Restricted to Locality of _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exact Name Only (On the Nose) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Buildup <input type="checkbox"/> Variations |

Subject Murekian Foundation
 Birthdate & Place in Buenos Aires
 Address _____

Localities _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initials Oliver

Prod. _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

NIRHaggy4220ext 4562

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Section11-18, 1974

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Name Searching Unit - Room 6527 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Service Unit - Room 6524 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Forward to File Review |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Attention _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Return to _____ |

Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular Request (Analytical Search) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Subversive References Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nonsubversive References Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Main _____ References Only |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exact Name Only (On the Nose) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Buildup <input type="checkbox"/> Variations |

Aley manaoogian akaSubject Aley manaoogian

Birthdate & Place _____

Address _____

Localities _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initials Oliveri

Prod. _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

manaoogian100-356147-18,20manaoogian100-383696(50-c ref)Hagan4200144562

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

AIRTEL

1 - Mr. J. R. Hagy

~~SECRET~~

12/24/74

To: SACS, Detroit (105-1790)
New York (100-46846)

From: Director, FBI (100-356147)

D ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION (AGBU)
IS - R

~~9/25/74
CLASS. BY [REDACTED] G-11804-2457Pm~~

~~DATE OF REPORT [REDACTED] CAR~~

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.~~

[REDACTED] groups funded by [REDACTED] in Buenos Aires, a connection has been discovered between [REDACTED] and a group known as the Armenian General Beneficiary Union. According to [REDACTED] this organization operates out of New York City or Detroit, Michigan, and the president of this organization is an individual known as Alex Manoogian or Alec Manoukian. [REDACTED] has disclosed this organization maintains direct connections with the Cultural Relations Committee of the Diaspora of Soviet Armenia, in the Soviet Union. [REDACTED] has also advised that this organization has connections with a Buenos Aires group known as the Murekian Foundation whose director is a man named Dicran Murekian.

[REDACTED] whether the Murekian Foundation is known to have connections with Armenian emigre groups in the United States. ~~X~~

Review of Bureau files indicates the Armenian General Beneficiary Union is undoubtedly identical with captioned organization, whose leader in the United States is Alex Manoogian, subject of Bureau file 100-383696. An LHM prepared by the Bureau and dated 10/29/68, has been forwarded to Legat,

1 - 100-383696 (Alex Manoogian)

REC-74 100-356147 SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

JRH:emg/car CAR
(7)

~~SECRET~~

DEC 23 1974

~~Classified by 3676
Exempt from GDS, Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinite~~

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.:
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____
NW 48073 MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

DocId:32976655

TELETYPE UNIT

Page 185

GPO 954-546

Airtel to Detroit and New York
Re: Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)
100-356147

Buenos Aires, [redacted]. This LHM contains a brief summary of background data available concerning the organization and Alex Manoogian. Bureau files contain no information identifiable with Dicran Murekian or the Murekian Foundation, and Legat, Buenos Aires, has been so advised. ~~X~~

Recipients are requested to review files for any pertinent information received or developed since October, 1968, concerning captioned organization and/or Alex Manoogian. Office files should also be reviewed for available data concerning Dicran Murekian and/or the Murekian Foundation, and logical sources familiar with Armenian activities should be contacted concerning possible connections between the Murekian Foundation and Armenian emigre groups in the United States. Recipients should also be alert for any information which would be related to the reported connection between captioned organization and [redacted] in Buenos Aires. ~~X~~

Submit pertinent data in LHM, [redacted]

NOTE:

Buenos Aires teletype 11/15/74, reported [redacted] information concerning captioned organization, its president, the Murekian Foundation and its director. Teletype summary of available data was furnished Legat, 11/21/74. Copies of 1968 LHM concerning captioned organization and its president were forwarded to Buenos Aires by Form 0-7 dated 11/26/74. Bureau files relating to Armenian activities in the U.S. have been reviewed; however, no additional data has been located concerning the subjects [redacted] and we are therefore instructing Detroit and New York, which have conducted considerable investigation of captioned group in the past, to update investigation and to advise as to the possible connections between the Murekian Foundation and Armenian groups. ~~X~~

FOIA o 1

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

/FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

SECRET

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-356147)

DATE: FEB 28 1975

FROM : *JW/P* SAC, NEW YORK (100-46846)(C) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION (AGBU)
IS - R

MUREKIAN FOUNDATION
IS - R

Classified by
Declassify on: OADR

ReBuairtel to Detroit and New York, 12/24/74.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau is the original and nine copies of an LHM, dated and captioned as above. A copy is being forwarded the Detroit Division for information purposes.

SOURCES

NY T-1

NY T-2

4 Copy to BUENAS AIRES
by routing slip for
LHM in Action
date APR 10 1975
by PLAC/DR

CLASSIFICATION

LHM classified "Secret; GDS 1 and 2; Indefinite, to conform with classification of reBuairtel with regard to [redacted] and to protect symbol sources of the NYO." (X)

SECRET

Classified by 3137
Exempt from GDS, Category 1, 2
Date of Declassification: Indefinite

REC-75

EX-101

- ② Detached + 34-220 My REC-75 EX-101
- ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE
- 7 - Bureau (Enc. 105-1235) (4 - Legat, Buenos Aires) (105-1235) (2 - 105-1236) (1 - Foreign Liaison Unit)
 - 1 - Detroit (105-1790) (Enc. 1) (RM)
 - 1 - [redacted]
 - 1 - [redacted]
 - New York



END: dpw APR 17 1975

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
DISSEMINATION INFORMATION
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

DOC CLASS: *CONFIDENTIAL*

~~SECRET~~

NY 100-46846

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NYO indices negative regarding ALEX MANOOGIAN,
DICRAN MUREKIAN and MUREKIAN FOUNDATION. ~~(S)~~

It is to be noted that reBuairtel requested
a review of files for any pertinent information received
or developed since October, 1968, concerning the AGBU.

This file review reflects that, by report
entitled "ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION; IS - ARMENIA,"
report of SA JOHN J. ELLIOTT, dated 11/29/62, at New York,
New York. Information was set forth reflecting that the
AGBU was investigated by the NYO at which time it was
determined that the AGBU was not communist-dominated and
was not forwarding funds to branch offices overseas, which
were alleged to be turning such funds over to communist-
inspired schools and religious institutions.

Since the above date, the NYO has received no
allegations of communist tendencies on the part of the
AGBU.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New York, New York

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

FEB 28 1975

Armenian General Benevolent Union;
Murekian Foundation

~~Classified by SP5 RTh 1/2~~
~~Declassify on: 0ADR~~
~~TMU~~

4-1784
280

NY T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, has provided information reflecting that the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) is a worldwide organization headquartered in Switzerland, which involves itself in cultural and educational purposes directed toward Armenian communities. The source stated that Alex Manoogian is the president of the AGBU and is an extremely wealthy individual who owns the Masco Company, Detroit, Michigan. (S)

Manoogian has taken control of the AGBU through the placement of his selected officers within the organization in major cities throughout the United States and throughout the Middle East, Europe and South America. (S)

NY T-1 stated the AGBU apparently operates through liaison with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in that the AGBU is allowed to sponsor numerous USSR artists, athletes, dance ensembles, motion pictures and cultural exhibits throughout the world at reduced costs. (S)

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE~~

~~SECRET~~

~~Classified by 3137
Exempt from E.O. Category 1, 2
Date of Declassification: Indefinite~~

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

100-356147-4a

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF clair
DATE 4/17/75 M/S

AGBU;
Murekian Foundation

Further, the source stated that the AGBU is permitted to make available AGBU periodicals within the USSR at small cost to the organization. (S)

The source stated that the purpose of the AGBU is to aid Armenians with educational grants, underwrite school costs and provide loans. (S)

The source stated that the AGBU is thought to have connections with the Cultural Relations Committee of the Diaspora of Soviet Armenians. (S)

However, the source stated he did not believe the AGBU to be a communist organization but is allowed to use Soviet facilities to portray the advancements of Soviet Armenians under the Government of the USSR. (S)

With regard to the Murekian Foundation, the source stated that one Dicran Murekian had helped found the organization approximately 40 years ago when he donated a sum of money in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and was designated "benefactor." The source stated that Dicran Murekian is approximately 75 years old and is a wealthy manufacturer of textiles and plastics in Argentina and maintains his residence in Buenos Aires, Argentina (S)

Source stated that he had met Dicran Murekian and his brother, whose first name he did not recall, approximately 20 years ago while visiting in Argentina. He stated that Dicran Murekian's brother had been an Argentinian Army officer whom he later heard had been jailed or exiled during the regime of the late President Juan Peron of Argentina. (S)

The source stated that on Vahan Kanfayan (phonetic) is the executive secretary of the Murekian Foundation in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and it was the source's understanding that Vahan Kanfayan is also involved in AGBU (S)

~~SECRET~~

AGBU;
Murekian Foundation

activities in Buenos Aires and through his position would be in a position to furnish indirect assistance to the Murekian Foundation by the AGBU. ~~(S)~~

The source stated he had no information which would indicate that the Murekian Foundation has any connections with the Armenian emigre community or groups in the United States. ~~(S)~~

NY T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, and who is familiar with some Armenian emigre groups in the United States and their activities, has advised that he has never heard of the Murekian Foundation of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and never heard of an individual named Dicran Murekian. ~~(S)~~

-3*-

~~SECRET~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

January 14, 1975

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEFICIARY UNION (AGBU)

MUREKIAN FOUNDATION

On November 15, 1974, a confidential source abroad advised that a connection has been established between [redacted] and the AGBU in New York City and Detroit, Michigan. The source [redacted] established that the AGBU "incident" in the United States is an individual identified as ALEX MANOOGIAN or ALEX MANUKIAN. The source reported that the AGBU has direct connections with the Cultural Relations Committee of the Diaspora of Soviet Armenia in the Soviet Union. Additionally, the source disclosed it was learned that the Murekian Foundation in Buenos Aires and its Director, DICRAN HUHNIAN, had direct connections with the AGBU and the Cultural Relations Committee of the Diaspora of Soviet Armenia in the Soviet Union.

A confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1961 that the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) 250-5th Avenue, New York City, was established in 1906 in Egypt as a nonprofit organization and chartered under Delaware laws in 1908 as a membership organization.

AGBU officers serve the organization without compensation and with election of officers in June of each year. In 1961, the Union had approximately 150 chapters located throughout the United States. It was formed to aid needy Armenians in the United States and abroad. It provides aid to schools, hospitals, and gives scholarships and loans to individuals. Its income is raised from social activities.

On February 15, 1955, a source who has furnished both reliable and unreliable information, reported that the AGBU is a philanthropic Armenian society with headquarters in New York which distributes funds throughout the world for needy Armenian causes. The source advised that reportedly most of these funds are contributed by wealthy American Armenians and although the parent organization in New York is free of communist taint, some of the subsidiary branches of the organization, which are located in many of the large cities throughout the world, are directed by communists, or communist sympathizers.

5931
5B(1)(a)
DET

100-356147-41
ENCLOSURE

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEFICIARY UNION (AGBU)

MUREKIAN FOUNDATION

Alex Manoogian
A source of unknown reliability advised in June, 1962, that ALEX MANOOGIAN is President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union International and that he is also President of the Masec Screw Products Company, Dearborn, Michigan. This source described Manoogian as a white male born June 14, 1900, at Smyrna, Turkey, and a naturalized United States citizen.

The files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation contain no information concluding that ALEX MANOOGIAN is now or has in the past been a member of the Communist Party or any organization designated subversive by the United States Government.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-356147)

DATE: 1/14/75

FROM : *Reb* LEGAT, BUENOS AIRES (105-1235)(105-1236)(RUC)SUBJECT: ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION (AGBU)
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIAMUREKIAN FOUNDATION
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA

ReBUCab 11/21/74; BU 0-7 11/26/74.

ENCLOSURES

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above. Copies have been designated for the Detroit and NYO.

SOURCES

See Non-Symbol Source page attached for the identity of the confidential source abroad referred to in enclosed LHM. The three sources, who provided information set forth in BU LHM dated 10/29/68 furnished this office as an enclosure to referenced BU 0-7 dated 11/26/74, are unknown to this office. Information provided by these sources has been extracted from the 10/29/68 LHM and incorporated into the enclosed LHM.

CLASSIFICATION

LHM classified Secret XGDS 1 and 2 Indefinite to conform with [redacted]

1/14/20
 5 - Bureau (Encs. 8 ENCL 30)
 (1 - Foreign Liaison Unit)
 (1 - Detroit)(Info)
 (1 - New York)(Info)

2 - Buenos Aires

RWS:jn

(7)

REC-52

100-356147-41

Copy to 1-NY 1-DE
 by routing slip for *Rebucab*
 Info Action
 Date: JAN 29 1975
 By *PLW/ak*

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
 ADD. DISSEMINATION/
 DRAFT

2 4-10
 JAN 17 1975

—
A. J. Klemm

51 APR 22 1975

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

DocId:32976655 Page 195



BUE 105-1235 105-1236

NON-SYMBOL SOURCE PAGE

Confidential source abroad referred to in
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